

DUDLEY CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 28, 2013

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Matchstick man

Strike a light modelmaker John shows his talent

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Knockout time

Boxing club puts on an event with a ring to it

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Ring derby

Two boxers from same town will square up

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Family is jailed for neglect of horses

A FAMILY of three are now behind bars after their "long-term neglect" of four horses they kept at a Dudley nature reserve.

The court heard it was a miracle the animals, who were all emaciated, had survived. The horses had been kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve, Pensnett, by husband and wife Walter and Amanda Hickman and their son Kevin.

RSPCA inspectors rescued the animals in December 2011, Dudley Magistrates' Court heard.

All three defendants, of Wallows Road, Pensnett, were jailed for a total of more than 50 offences of animal cruelty by District Judge Michael Wheeler.

They all admitted the charges but waited until the first day of a previous pre-arranged trial to do so.

In sentencing, Mr Wheeler said: "I'm told you love animals, especially horses, and that you have kept them for many years and know what you are doing. I find that impossible to believe."

RSPCA inspector Jackie Hickman welcomed the sentences. She said: "Whilst tethering in itself is not an illegal practice, the many welfare problems that accompany it."

● Expressed - Page 5

Tutors opt for tribunal

FOUR maths lecturers who were sacked from Halesowen College will take their case claiming unfair dismissal to a tribunal.

Lecturers David Muritu and Jason White together with two other tutors have lodged their case with the employment tribunal in Birmingham. It is expected to be heard this June, union officials say. A 12,500-strong petition has been collected by members of the University and College Union in protest over the sackings.

Principal Keith Bate was unavailable for comment.

£3.5m SELL-OFF OF CENTRE SITES

by Andrew Turton

AROUND £3.5 million will be raised by the sale of 12 council buildings, many of which are late Victorian and early Edwardian, in Dudley town centre.

The buildings have been earmarked to make 90 new homes. Bosses today said the sale of the buildings will also net Dudley Council around £467,000 per year in savings. The offices will be transformed into new homes, in a move which council leader, Councillor David Sparks, said would boost regeneration plans. The properties, originally constructed as houses for professionals and business people, are now used as offices and will be converted into homes. They are all located in the Dudley town centre conservation area and will be part of the town's residential quarter.

600 sign up to fight cuts for canteen

MORE than 600 patients, staff and volunteers have signed a petition against plans to scale back the canteen at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Bosses have revealed they want to reduce the opening hours of the canteen to save £110,000 a year.

But the move has led to criticism from union officials who have started a petition to stop the plans. The proposals have also put jobs at risk. There are 64 workers, and a consultation is under way.

Under the plans, the canteen would close at weekends and be open between 7am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday. It is currently open between 7am and 8pm each day.

Tracy Wood, regional organiser for Unison, said: "Unison visited Russells Hall Hospital to gauge reaction in relation to the canteen closure and potential job losses due to this change. Not one person we spoke to agreed the changes should take place and thought the canteen was a valuable service which needed to be retained."

"Long-serving canteen staff will lose their jobs because the Government has chosen to cut the NHS budget."

Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, has defended the move, saying: "This decision follows a comprehensive review of footfall through the restaurant, which concluded there was very little footfall after the lunchtime service."

Dudley Council leader David Sparks said the plans were part of a wider scheme to revamp the town centre.

"A key element of the continued regeneration of Dudley town centre is to get more people living in the town," he said.

"The more efficient use of council office accommodation will result in savings for the tax payer and enable these new homes to be created in the town. This will all support our continued efforts to bring more people into the town centre."

Councillor Sparks has reiterated his view that high street shops would be boosted by more people living in the town centre.

He says the move could help fill empty buildings, including some retail premises, while increasing footfall for existing stores.

Attracting

The Labour leader admitted attracting chain stores back to the town had proved tricky with Merry Hill Shopping Centre on the doorstep so the authority had to look at other options.

Figures reveal the £467,000 annual savings from the sale of buildings represents 20 per cent of the council's current annual property running costs of £2.3 million.

Council bosses are currently in the process of relocating staff to other existing offices in the town.

The three-year programme to relocate staff is set to be completed in the summer of 2014 when the work to renovate the properties will be undertaken.

The buildings that staff will continue to use as office space are the main council house building, the large office building at 4 Ednam Road along with 3 to 5 and 7 St James's Road as well as 8 Parsons Street.

Regeneration schemes include the drive to boost tourism numbers through an overhaul of the Castle Hill area and a bid to bring a major supermarket into Dudley are also in the pipeline.

Alexia is perfect for pageant



Beauty pageant winner Alexia Bates, aged 11, of Dudley, is all smiles

A SCHOOLGIRL is flying the flag for the Black Country after winning a beauty contest and booking her place at a glamorous US pageant.

Alexia Bates, aged 11, of Dudley, won the pre-teen section of the Europe's Perfect

pageant held in Wales. She will now attend the World's Perfect pageant in Orlando, Florida, in August. Her mother, April, is appealing for sponsors for Alexia, who attends St Paul's School for Girls in Edgbaston. Contact Ms Bates on 07882 766770.

Breaches in safety cost firm £18,000

A STEEL tube manufacturer has been landed with a court bill of more than £18,000 after two workers were injured, including one who suffered a severed thumb.

A 23-year-old at Marcegaglia (UK) Limited, Netherton, crushed his right hand, fracturing two bones, Dudley Magistrates' Court heard.

The hearing was told he had reached through a gap in a fixed safety guard on a machine in order to pick up a steel coil and feed it back into the machinery.

By doing so he tripped a sensor, which caused the machine parts to close and trap his hand. Two weeks later, a 20-year-old apprentice had a thumb severed after it was trapped in a machine.

The court heard an investigation by the Health and Safety Executive had found both injuries happened as a result of poor guarding standards.

Poor overall management of health and safety was also cited by experts.

Magistrates heard the apprentice was not being supervised at the time and had not been given a training schedule.

The firm admitted breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. It was fined £11,000 for the breach, plus £7,878 costs.

Move to sell Initial arm

RENTOKIL is reported to be preparing to sell Initial Facilities Services in Dudley for up to £400 million.

Initial, which has its UK headquarters at Castlegate House, Castlegate Way, has been part of Rentokil Initial since 1996.

Initial has grown to become one of the leading cleaning companies offering services for offices, retail premises, airports and railway stations. The parent group has asked corporate financiers from Barclays to work on a sale of the division.

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From left, Sue Parker, Beverley Woodward, Debbie and Amy Tonks, 11



The Mid Counties Entertainment Council Spotlight Awards

Top talent turns out to their big awards bash



Front, Could it be Magic/That's Life, Sam Gorman, left, aged 20, of Bilbrook, Lee Aldridge, 27, of Aldridge, Phil Richards, 32, of Coseley, Brett Foster, 31, of Tipton, Jay Catalano, 35, of Stourbridge, with back, Man Maid - Sam Tanner, 53, left, and Becky Tanner, 37, Stuart James, 36, of Oldbury, Kia, of Wednesfield, Janine Jeffery, 34, and Ashley Jeffery, 38, of Pelsall

TOP singing talent took their moment in the spotlight to celebrated being named among the region's best turns.

Five acts, including a boyband tribute group and husband and wife duo, claimed gongs at the Mid Counties Entertainment Council's Spotlight Awards.

They played to a sell-out 220-strong crowd at Quarry Bank Labour Club. And everything was alright on the night for the glitzy bash despite last-minute rehearsals, late dashes to make the show on time and final costume drama.

Tracks from Elvis, The Killers, Billy Ocean and Take That were among a plethora of hits from the acts as they all took turns on stage before accepting their awards.

Solo singers Stuart James and Kia were joined

by duos ManMaid and Ashley and Janine together with boyband tribute act Could It Be Magic/That's Life to receive gongs.

Council secretary and night organiser Malcolm Edwards, aged 66, heralded the night as a shot in the arm for clubland.

Builder

"We have some of the best singers here in the country and this awards show is also here as a representation of all the great artists in this area," said Mr Edwards, a former Round Oak Steelworks worker and builder who lives in Tipton.

First on the bill was professional singer Stuart James, of Bowling Green Drive, Oldbury, who won the top male vocalist honour.

The 36-year-old has performed in Spain, America and Dubai. The father-of-two opened

his set with Take That's Rule The World. Husband and wife duo Ashley and Janine Jeffery, aged 38 and 34 respectively, perform on the road - juggling family and work life with their three children. The couple, from Pelsall, Walsall, have been married 11 years. They won honours for the top duo alongside another act ManMaid aka Sam and Becky Tanner, aged 53 and 37, respectively from Warwickshire.

Solo singer Kia, of Wednesfield, Wolverhampton arrived just minutes before the show had been due to start after getting stuck in traffic. But after a quick change she was ready to hit the stage to perform and collect her award as best female vocalist.

Friends Brett Foster, 31, Lee Aldridge, 27, Sam Gorman, 20, Jay Catalano, 35 and 32-year-old Phil Richards treated the audience to a packed set full of Take That hits.



Stuart James, 36, of Oldbury

Sentence on mother for threat with knife

A WOMAN who grabbed a neighbour by the hair and punched her in the nose before threatening another with a knife has been given a 12-month jail term suspended for 18 months.

Nicole Hewitt told the second neighbour: "You're next."

Hewitt, aged 29, of Murr-croft Road, Stourbridge, had used the knife to try to scratch the couple's car before pointing it at the man's chin.

In the attack on the first neighbour she had demanded £15 from the woman to cover the cost of damage to her son's bike tyres, which she believed the woman had been involved in, before striking the woman in the face.

Hewitt then walked away only to return and punch the woman, said Mr Richard Franck prosecuting.

Judge Michael Challinor told Hewitt, who admitted affray and common assault, that she had behaved violently and badly.

"People do not feel safe when they have neighbours like you." He also made a restraining order forbidding her from having any contact with the two other families.

Police give carers cash

POLICE officers have donated £1,000 to help carers at a Dudley respite centre.

Crossroads Care provides free trained carers to support respite for anyone across the borough with a physical disability or sensory impairment.

Around 140 families are helped by the centre, which has its headquarters on the Pensnett Trading Estate, every week with care in their own homes.

Peso Julie Pressdee from the Kingswinford neighbourhood policing team, visited Crossroads to hand over the cheque. The cash will fund social events.

Mortgages up

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society is bucking a national trend of a slump in mortgage applications. During January and February this year the society processed mortgage applications worth more than £6.6 million, an increase of more than 45 per cent on 2012.

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Football tryouts invitation

SCHOOL leavers are wanted for football trials as a first step to start professional careers in the game.

Stourbridge College's male and female football academies are holding the first of this year's football trials on April 10 and April 11 at Kidderminster Harriers Football Club's Aggborough Stadium.

Already in its second year, Kidderminster Harriers Football Academy has been producing successful players ready to start professional careers.

Students are studying for a sports qualification as well as improving their football skills through a professional coaching and games programme.

Stella Raphael-Reeves, director of sport at Stourbridge College, said: "The Football Academy has been extremely successful since it was set up two years ago."

There are limited places available and courses and football coaching take place at the college's Centre of Excellence for Sport in Kidderminster.

Anyone interested in sport including golf, rugby, and boxing should check out Stourbridge College's range of academies at www.stourbridge.ac.uk/sport

Staff terror in robbery

MASKED robbers threatened terrified staff at a Halesowen supermarket before stealing cash and cigarettes.

The thieves targeted the Tesco Express store, in Stourbridge Road, just before 11pm on March 18.

Staff were forced into a security office and threatened by the three men, who wore scarves over their faces. The robbers stole cash and cigarettes before fleeing in a silver Audi estate car.

Two of the robbers were white and the other was black, said police.

Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

£300,000 depot will serve SVR

A £300,000 depot to maintain a fleet of diesel engines is to be built at Severn Valley Railway to replace outdated facilities at the famous heritage line.

Work on the building, in Kidderminster, which will be fully equipped with lifting jacks and inspection pits, is due to start in autumn.

Search for rioters will continue vow police

DETECTIVES have vowed to keep tracking down the rioters who caused chaos on the streets of the West Midlands in 2011 but have yet to be caught.

More than 800 people have been arrested since rioters ran amok in Wolverhampton, West Bromwich and Birmingham, smashing up shops and attacking police officers.

Detectives continue to work on Operation View, the inquiry team which is tracking down the offenders.

A senior officer has said detectives will persist in the hunt for those who had not yet been caught and warned the thugs that took part they should not sleep easy.

Raju Miah, aged 20, is the latest to be apprehended by officers.

The 22-year-old is now paying the price for his role in the disturbances after a judge at Birmingham Crown Court sentenced him to 22 months behind bars.

The court was told he shattered seven windows in a failed attempt to smash his way into jeweller Watches of Switzerland, in New Street, Birmingham, on the evening of August 9, 2011.

The mechanic, from Weatheroak Road in Sparkhill, broke into a newsagent in Newhall Street earlier that night as part of a group of thugs that hurled a manhole

cover through a window before stripping the convenience store bare.

Miah admitted burglary and attempted burglary and was sentenced to 12 and 10 months, respectively, in prison the offences.

West Midlands Police Sergeant Julie Woods, who leads Operation View, said: "As this case proves we are still actively searching for people suspected of being involved in the riots and associated looting."

"No-one wanted in connection with the disorder can rest easy because detectives could come knocking at any time."

"The public have played a key role in helping us identify suspects from the mass

of CCTV footage recovered at the time and again I'd ask people to check out images on our website to see if they recognise any of the faces featured."

"If they do believe they recognise someone I'd urge them to contact us straight away on the 101 police number."

During the widespread disorder in Wolverhampton, thugs tore through Queen Street and smashed shop windows, including that of EV Becketts and Zapp clothing.

Thousands of pounds' worth of damage was caused as well as stock stolen. Mobs also gathered throughout Queen Square and in Dudley Street.

Market traders happy over move to freeze stall rents

TRADERS have welcomed plans to freeze rents for market stalls in Dudley for the second year in a row as a boost for their businesses.

Council bosses have announced that fees for Dudley Market will be kept at this year's prices. It is hoped the move will encourage more traders to take up pitches. Regeneration councillor Shaikat Ali said the authority had decided to freeze the rates to help traders who were struggling during the tough economic climate.

Dudley Market Traders Association Chairman Len Lenihan said: "We are pleased that they have made this decision - it is applauded by the traders."

"With the present state of the economy, I think that this price freeze is justified, especially considering the footfall in the town."

Encourage

Councillor Ali said: "We want to support traders as much as we can and also encourage new traders to consider using the market as a place to set up a new business."

"We are also committed to helping traders by exploiting the market's full potential."

"Our market transformation plans will breathe new life into the town and encourage more people from the borough and beyond to visit Dudley

by Andrew Turton

helping to increase footfall." Rates per day range from £9.18 to £32.66. There are 10 different levels of rent, and more is charged for weekends than weekdays. Traders also have to pay a surcharge of between £2 and £3.50 each day, and £5 at Christmas.

The rent freeze comes as council officials draw up plans for £6 million revamp of the market.

Among the ideas are new stalls with canopies and remove the ageing toilet block to create a view of the town's castle.

Dudley Council is also working on proposals to run specialist Sunday and evening markets.

The borough's regeneration chief, Councillor Shaikat Ali, said: "By keeping rents down we're supporting both existing and potential new traders."

The market is open Monday to Saturday.

Country festival in town

A POPULAR country and western festival will once again be staged in a Wyre Forest town with hundreds of fans expected at the annual event.

The festival is scheduled to take place on August 17 and 18 this year at its regular location along the riverside in Stourport-on-Severn.

Musicians who have confirmed for the event include Johnny Holland, Alan Gregory and Tony Rouse. Call 01562 732994 for more information.



From left, Pat Cousens and Pat Coburn are pictured with some of their work

Artist is running classes with clay

COLOURFUL vases and jewellery will be among the clay artworks made on a new art course in Dudley.

French artist Pascale Bigot is behind the sessions which are run at the Talbot Hotel in Stourbridge High Street, and will start on April 16.

She will explore a variety of techniques using polymer clay as a material during the 10-week course.

Mrs Bigot, aged 50, is known in the town for her regular exhibitions of her pastel artwork often displayed at her home in Worcester Street.

She runs courses at venues across the borough for Dudley Council including Pensnett Community Centre. "The people who come sometimes have never done any art at all and they get the chance to discover a new skill," Mrs Bigot said.

There is a charge of around £60 for the complete 10-week course and people are asked to book in advance.

The course will run from April 16 on Tuesdays between 12pm and 2pm.

For more details email Mrs Bigot on pascalebigo11@gmail.com or call 01384 444939.

NEWS in brief

Support wanted for big duck race

ORGANISERS of the annual Duck Race in Bewdley are rallying support ahead of the Easter Monday event.

It had been scheduled to take place on New Year's Day but it had to be called off after torrential rain led to the river reaching dangerous levels. But Kidderminster & District Lions Club, which organises the event, hopes the new date of April 1 will attract the usual support. Ducks will go on sale from 10am and the race will start from the Town Bridge at noon.

Rare John Peel LP to be released

A RECORDING made by the late radio DJ John Peel at a well-known dance club in the Midlands has been released on an LP.

The recording was made by Peel on his tape recorder during Captain Beefheart's first UK tour at Frank Freeman's Dance Club in Mill Street, Kidderminster in 1968.

Now that performance, and other rare recordings from Peel's collection are being released on a special vinyl LP. The LP's release aims to promote International Record Store Day on April 20.

Museum reopens with new display

BEWDLEY Museum will reopen its doors to visitors this week with a new exhibition and events planned for the spring and summer.

The attraction in Load Street will open on March 29 with thousands of visitors expected over the course of the year.

Starting off the new programme of events will be an exhibition called East meets West featuring Chinese and Japanese artefacts.

Golf club invites players to event

KEEN golfers are invited to an Easter open event near Kidderminster next month.

Clebury Mortimer Golf Club is inviting ladies, gents and senior citizens to play in teams of four on April 11. See www.cleburygolfclub.co.uk for details.

Victim of crash

A MAN killed in a smash between two cars near Swindon, has been named by police as Norman Higgins. Mr Higgins died following the smash in Hinksford Lane, between Wombourne and Kingswinford.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE real House of Commons is not the fiery place you saw for the opening of the Budget debate with the big beasts of Government and Opposition hurling razor-barbed soundbites at each other as a packed chamber roared its approval or outrage. The real Commons, as it exists for 90 per cent of its time, is the near-empty, echoing place we saw six hours later. In this forlorn lost world the last speaker of the day, plucky Emma Reynolds (Lab, Wolverhampton NE) was banging on about inner-city mortality rates and unequal societies. A dozen or so MPs didn't even pretend to listen and a couple of rude old duffers talked loudly throughout her impassioned speech. It's not all glamour, being an MP.

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THE new Pope urges us all to pray for him. The Archbishop of Canterbury is off on a pilgrimage of prayer and he, too, wants us to join in his prayers. You see the difficulty? If prayer worked, we wouldn't need to be encouraged to do it. But it doesn't work, so we don't.

□□□□□□□□

A READER tells me his wife died last July and when his policy came up for renewal a few days ago, he was horrified to see the premium had increased by 50 per cent, because he is now the sole driver. He took it up with the call centre where a lady sympathised but refused to budge, explaining that this huge rise was "the industry standard." Funny, isn't it, how all those happy, snappy, chummy TV adverts for car insurance never mention this sort of thing?

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THE BBC Magazine raises the issue of bereavement leave, statutory time off work when a loved one dies. So far the Government has declined to intervene, on the grounds that the right to "reasonable time" off is already included in the 1996 Employment Rights Act, and that some people take longer to grieve than others.

And that's the problem. Once they started granting automatic leave, we could discover a new version of Parkinson's Law: grief expands to fit the time off available. Let me know your thoughts.

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AFTER the Connecticut primary-school massacre in December, Americans talked boldly of getting to grips with gun control. At the very least, politicians planned to outlaw assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Now, both plans have been quietly shelved. It was a very simple question: What does the United States cherish more, its children or its guns? Now we know.

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SCIENTISTS in Oklahoma believe swallows may be evolving shorter wings to help them get out of the way of cars. The new short-winged swallows are faster and more agile and therefore less likely to get flattened by a Chevy. Hedgehogs of Britain! Are you listening?

□□□□□□□□

GREAT Theological Questions of Our Time. A reader recalls that Pope Benedict always wore red shoes. He asks: "Is it because he used Cardinal polish?"

□□□□□□□□

DID a number of MPs fiddle their parliamentary expenses some years ago? Or were they just confused by a very complicated system? Isn't it time we all took a more understanding and sympathetic view of these hard-working public servants whose only crime is to want to make the world a kinder, better place? (Note: This column complies in every respect with the requirements of the Royal Charter on the Press).

□□□□□□□□

IN THE summer of 1987 I reviewed an open-air production of Richard II at Ludlow Festival. Behind me were two old ladies who could have nattered for England. When the tall, stately figure of John of Gaunt strode on stage to deliver one of the most moving speeches in the English language, those two old ladies erupted in loud whispers: "Ooh, look, it's him, that man from the programme on telly. The one about a department store. He's Captain Peacock." And so it was. Frank Thornton, who died peacefully a few days ago aged 92, may have been best remembered from *Are You Being Served?* but he was also a fine stage actor.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Commissioner names his assistants

WEST Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones has announced the names of three new, unselected assistants.

Mr Jones has selected former police authority chairman Mohammed Nazir as the representative of Wolverhampton and Walsall; Dudley councillor Judy Foster for Dudley and Sandwell, and Faye Abbot for Coventry and Solihull. They will each be paid £22,500

a year for just 10 days work a month.

Mr Jones has also appointed four non-executive members, who are Brendan Connor, Ernie Hendricks, Tim Sawdon and former police officer Cath Hannon, who stood against Mr Jones in the police commissioner elections.

The non-executive members will be paid £7,500 for two days a month.

Mr Jones is paid £100,000 a year while his deputy, Yvonne Mosquito,

is paid £65,000 a year. All of the new representatives will sit on the police commissioner's Strategic Policing and Crime Board.

Mr Jones said his job was "too big" for one person and that the overall budget for his office next year would be £100,000 cheaper than that of the former police authority.

"I am delighted to make these appointments. I am very grateful to the 60 or so people who applied, and

from these there are excellent successful candidates," he explained.

"Individually, each has a strong track record of public service, relevant experience, knowledge, and expertise, which is obvious from their CVs. Collectively, they are a balanced and representative group also. Among them is a former chairman and two vice-chairmen of the police authority."

Family in horse neglect 'expressed no remorse'

A FAMILY of three who kept four horses in an "appalling state" at a Dudley nature reserve showed no remorse, a court heard.

The animals had been left emaciated at Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett. The mother, father and son were all jailed at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

They were also handed lifetime bans on owning, keeping or being involved with horses. Walter Hickman, aged 52, of Wallows Road, Pensnett, was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison for a total of 20 charges in relation to the horses, while his wife Amanda Hickman, 49, was jailed for 16 weeks for 16 charges. Their son Kevin Hickman, 23, of the same address, was locked up for 18 weeks for 18 offences.

All three pleaded guilty to their charges, but waited until the first day of a previously-arranged three-day trial to do so.

In sentencing them, District Judge Michael Wheeler said: "These horses were in an appalling state, with pest infestations and sores, they hadn't been hooved properly, they were emaciated and near death. Some had been tethered, some with access to grass and water that was inadequate, and they had been checked infrequently."

Shocked

"I'm told you've been shocked by this prosecution and you are angered and upset by the loss of your horses. What I hear from this is you only think of yourselves."

"Even when these horses were seen and seized by the authorities, you showed no willingness to sign them over. None of you has shown a shred of remorse or responsibility. Your level of denial borders on arrogance."

"This was a case of long-term neglect, and it's a miracle these animals have survived."

The horses had been kept at Fens Pool Nature Reserve between November 2 and December 22, in 2011.

During the hearing the court was told how the family had previously been warned by the authorities when a foal died, after being shut in a trailer on their property and becoming too weak to reach its mother to feed.

Prosecuting solicitor Mr Nick Sutton said this warning seemed to have no effect. He added: "An awful lot of agencies have been involved in this matter in distressing work, because of what these people did and did not do."

The case ran up a total of £22,849, including stabling, care, investigations, vet and legal fees, including £4,240 for one agency, World Horse Welfare, to care for just one of the animals.

Despite this, Mr Wheeler did not impose an order for any costs. The family's defending solic-



Amanda Hickman, who is 49



Kevin Hickman, aged 23



Safe and well - RSPCA inspector Jackie Hickman and a much healthier Skippy

itor Stephanie Brownlees said the defendants were "shell-shocked" by their prosecution, as it has been a habit locally for horses to be tethered and this was seen as "perfectly acceptable".

She said: "It's clear that although levels of care fell way short of the levels required, they still did love these animals and are suffering from having to hand them over."

"Deep down they realise they've fallen short of their duty of care, and it was never a deliberate attempt to be cruel or to neglect in any way. It requires a great deal of money, land and effort from owners to keep a horse, and in this case the defendants appear to have bitten off more than

they could chew and were ignorant to the levels of care."

After the case, RSPCA equine inspector Jackie Hickman said she hopes these prosecutions act as a warning to others.

One of the horses, a skewbald cob pony called Skippy, has now been nursed back to health. The pony had lost a lot of weight, her hooves were severely overgrown and she was weak and lethargic. But despite her ordeal she managed to pull through and only a week after her rescue had the strength to stand for a farrier.

It took nearly a year for her to physically and mentally heal, said Inspector Hickman.

Cannabis farm was to 'feed my habit'

A £30-A-DAY drug habit has saved a man from jail after a cannabis farm was found at his home.

The drugs was uncovered by chance when police were called to the address in Rowley Regis following a row between Joginder Niner and his girlfriend on Boxing Day, a court heard last week.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Court. Court officers found 28 plants being cultivated in tents with lighting in a rear bedroom and a couple of fans to disperse the smell.

The prosecution did not accept Niner was growing all the drugs for his own use without plans to sell some.

But the 25-year-old, who was renting the property in Old Bridge Walk, said: "I have been smoking cannabis since I was 14 and could not afford to keep buying it, so I decided to grow some."

Police found none of the paraphernalia normally associated with dealing. Judge John Warner said: "I may be sceptical about his explanation but there was no evidence of drug dealing."

Niner, from Hagley Road West, Oldbury, admitted producing cannabis and was given a four-month jail sentence suspended for two years with £200 costs.

B&M profits enjoy a rise

DISCOUNT chain B&M, which has stores across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, has reported a rise in profits.

The Liverpool chain, which runs 324 B&M Bargain stores offering low-cost groceries and home-wares across the country has benefited from the closure of high street rivals.

It has announced pre-tax profits up 43 per cent to £90.6 million for last year. Group sales rose 31.5 per cent to £937.2m in 2012 as it opened 53 new stores. B&M, which was founded in 1978, plans to grow to have at least 400 stores in the UK.

Vegetable class

A FREE class showing how to get the best from vegetables and flowers is being held in Wolverhampton.

Allseasons, at Sandy Lane Allotments in Bushbury, is putting on the class on April 20 from 11am to 1pm. Call 01902 789711 for details.

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Rules for safety on the cards

SCHOOLCHILDREN have designed a new card game aimed at driving home a safety message to young people across Dudley.

Messages on bullying, internet safety, robbery, carrying weapons and safer travel are all part of the innovative scheme.

The Battle Cards have been created by Holly Hall Academy, Dudley, to encourage their peers to be more streetwise and were launched with the help of head boy Charly Bagley and head girl Gagandeep Sandhar.

Pupils worked with Dudley's community safety partnership Safe & Sound, school governors, Police Community Support Officers and church leaders to create the interactive card game.

By playing the game young people will be encouraged to think about the choices they make and the potential negative consequences of not thinking first.

There will also be additional information giving details of advice and support services in the borough.

The game's launch follows the success of a board game last year to teach young people to think about their personal safety.

Raid station opens again

A PETROL station is back in business after a bungled ram raid smashed through the shop wall more than a month ago – but the raiders are yet to be caught.

Raiders used a pick-up truck to break through the side of Costcutters at Clarence Street Service Station in Dudley in an early morning attempt to take cash from the ATM inside.

But the would-be thieves left empty-handed having been unable to break into the cash machine. They did, however, leave the wall fallen down and stock inside damaged.

No arrests have been made in relation to the incident and police are still investigating.

Sports donation

SCHOOLS and charitable organisations are being offered free Olympics and Sport Relief memorabilia. Sainsbury's on St George's Parade, Wolverhampton is giving away its old stock from last year's events including socks and flags.

Tourism transformation to start in summer



An artist's impression of the new entrance

A MULTI-MILLION pound transformation of a tourist area aimed at boosting jobs and visitors will begin in the summer.

Land between Dudley Zoo and Castle, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust at Castle Hill, will be redeveloped to create a 600-space visitor car park and a recreational route linking the attractions.

Bosses said after plans were approved by Dudley Council last week, that work on the £10.1 million project was now scheduled to start in three months.

The creation of a new access route off Tipton Road will be the first phase of the

scheme which is expected to take until the end of the year to complete.

The road will stretch to the zoo entrance and continue to the rear of the site where it will link up to the new car park. Engineering works for the new road are already under way.

Around half of the 600-space car park will be created as part of phase one with the remainder built during the second phase of the scheme. Officials from the zoo said work to create a new entrance for the attraction was due to begin around Christmas when roads around the site were quieter.

The second phase of the scheme will con-

tinue in January and will include work on the new entrance and the creation of a visitor information centre.

Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said the entire scheme was due to be completed by summer next year.

He said timescales for the work had now been agreed with the aim of completely changing the look of the area within 18 months. Mr Suddock said: "Dudley Council approved the plans last week and I think it is plain to see we are not hanging around. Preparatory works are already taking place and talks are under way with contractors so the work can begin in June."

Lost school days in borough above national level, claim

THOUSANDS of children missed school for more than a month in a year across the region with absence rates much higher than the national average in some areas.

Dudley, Wolverhampton and Sandwell were all above the national average, but Walsall fared significantly better and the figure in Staffordshire fell. Overall absence over 2011/2012 across the UK averaged 5.2 per cent, according to figure released by the Department for Education (DfE). Wolverhampton has the highest rate of school pupils in the West Midlands persistently absent from class with almost 2,000 absent from lessons within a year, a figure of 6.4 per cent, with Dudley on 6.2 per cent and Sandwell on six per cent.

Staffordshire fell to 4.6 per cent and Walsall 4.8 per cent.

New figures released by the DfE showed 1,980 of the 30,955 pupils enrolled for schools in the Wolverhampton were not in class for more than a month. Overall absences were 5.6 per cent (the average across England is 5.1) with 1.2 per cent unauthorised by schools in Wolverhampton.

The Government said it defined a child as 'persistently absent' if they missed more than one month of school.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for education, Councillor Tim Crumpton, said: "I don't think pupil absence is a major problem for us in Dudley."

Responsibility
"It is the school's responsibility, and we work with them when needed if they are having any problems with a particular pupil's absence rate. We provide support and advice."

Schools in Sandwell fared no better with 2,590 of the 42,860 pupils in Sandwell persistent no shows equating to six per cent. The overall absence rate was 5.5 per cent.

Queen Mary's High School, Walsall and Thomas Telford, Telford had the joint best absentee record in the country with a rate of 0.1 per cent.

Pupils in Walsall fared well overall with figures showing 4.8 per cent students were continuously absent – 0.4 per cent below the national average.

The number of persistently absent children in schools across Staffordshire fell to 4.6 per cent in 2011/12.

Women in business
BUSINESSWOMEN in Bewdley are invited to a networking event on April 16. It will run from 10am until noon at the Hop Pole Inn. The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month to share ideas.

Church marking 200 years



The Rev Simon Falshaw at Christ Church, High St, Lye, with a cross he is inviting people to decorate as part of a street art event to mark the 200th anniversary of the church

A CHURCH in Lye is celebrating its 200-year anniversary with a street art project.

The project run by Christ Church, on Lye High Street, called 200 Years Together, will include a large canvas depicting the town.

People will be asked to take along photographs to be a part of it. The Rev Simon Falshaw said: "We will be out under a gazebo allowing the public to creatively express themselves. We will have a large display of Lye on canvas and want to see how we can

fit ourselves all in the picture. We'll be celebrating the community we've been able to be a part of for the last two centuries. You can literally paint yourself into the picture."

Up until this Thursday, people from the community can take part in the activities and leave their mark on the canvas.

People will also be able to decorate a cross to mark the milestone.

Weather permitting, the gazebo will be open from 10.30am until 3pm.

NEWS

in brief

Zoo gives a push to breeding birds

BIRDCEEPERS at Dudley Zoo are busy preparing for the upcoming bird breeding season.

Many of the collection typically breed around March and April, and keepers are giving them a little encouragement by adding extra foliage, plants and nesting boxes to many of the enclosures.

Section leader, Kellie Piper, said: "Breeding preparation varies with species – we are making up wooden nesting boxes for the scarlet macaws and Amazon parrots, whereas others prefer platforms."

Armed robbers flee empty-handed

TWO thieves threatened cash delivery officers with hammers in a bungled robbery attempt at a busy petrol station in Dudley.

The masked men ambushed the officers as they stopped to drop off money at the cash machine at BP Snax 24, in Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill. The men ordered the officers to open their van – but they refused and within minutes the men fled empty handed in a blue Audi car.

Protest planned on bedroom tax

A DISABILITY group has organised a protest against the controversial "bedroom tax".

More than 200 people are expected to descend on Kidderminster for the demonstration organised by Disability Action Wyre Forest. It will take place outside the town hall in Vicar Street on March 30 from 12.30pm. Community groups, charities and unions are invited to join.

Museum talk on being a curator

VISITORS to Worcestershire County Museum can discover what it is like to be a curator with the first of a series of new talks.

The event will take place at the Hartlebury Castle-attraction on April 24.

The talk will run from 11am to 12.30pm and tickets, costing £16, must be pre-booked. Call 01299 250416.

Demolition plans

PLANS to demolish a former Kidderminster pub have been lodged. Clarks of Kidderminster has submitted proposals for a car sales business on the site of the Crown Inn in Old Chester Road South.

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NEWS

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

GREAT to see that modern-day political philosopher Katie Price striking a blow for Middle England.

Springing to the defence of the housing association which advised its tenants to cut back on non-essential spending, the artist formerly known as Jordan used her newspaper column to launch a broadside against some of the people who fail to live up to her admittedly high standards.

"I've noticed a lot of people who haven't got jobs but they seem to find money to buy fags, drink alcohol and smoke spliffs," she declared, in almost Churchillian tones.

"They've also got more gadgets than a PC World warehouse. Why? Because you and me – the hardworking men and women of Britain – do not spend our days going on the Jeremy Kyle show."

"We get up early and come home late, slogging our guts out to pay for THEIR luxuries."

Hear, hear, Katie, you've hit the nail on the head. Now remind me. What was it you used to do for a living?

□□□□□
VAN driver: "Is there a B&Q in Wednesbury?"

Black Country mon: "Dunno, but there's two 'T's in Tipton".

□□□□□
LET'S get this right. The reason Sebastian Vettel had a face like a wet weekend as he stood on the podium after the Malaysian Grand Prix was because he won.

Offering the sort of expression of regret which even Nick Clegg would think twice about, the German Formula One star said after the race: "I messed up today. I apologise for that. I am the black sheep."

Apparently, he was not supposed to win, but should have left first place to his team-mate Mark Webber, due to some complicated rule that would have meant the team would have got more points if Webber had won.

Now imagine if those principles were translated into another sport. Could you imagine Mo Farrah taking a breather in the middle of the 10,000 metres, because it was Christopher Thompson's turn for a medal?

Or a footballer booting a penalty into the crowd because both sides had agreed to stage the 0-0 draw that would guarantee them safety from relegation?

There is no doubt that given the rules of F1, the gentlemanly thing would have been for Vettel to have held his place and let his team-mate take the glory.

But to those of us who find the idea of watching a lot of funny-looking cars running round a track about as much fun as a police motorway video, the events of the weekend have done nothing to dissuade us from our view. That motor racing is a very strange sport indeed.

□□□□□

EAMONN Holmes on Sky News last week: "Today we have a yellow snow alert."

No, he didn't mean that.



John Hurley with his digger, which has an engine and moving shovel arms



This perfect miniature gipsy caravan is among John's creations

John is matchless in the world of models

LEE WATTON watched artist John Hurley work on one of his astonishing models built only from matchsticks

ARTIST John Hurley has just put the finishing touches to his latest unique work.

Mr Hurley creates miniature models not from clay or stone, but from humble matchsticks – tens of thousands of them.

And his latest creation is a model of a mechanical digger, made from no fewer than 250,000 matches.

Mr Hurley, aged 70, who is from Dudley, has been working on the piece, which comes complete with moving shovel arms and doors, for just over a year.

The talented former lorry driver and machine operator has even created a removable engine for the digger, again with fully working parts, housed in a compartment at the front of the model.

And adding to the accuracy of the piece the wheels turn and the operator's seat swivels around, just as it would in a real digger.

Complete

Mr Hurley, who lives in Dixons Green Road, said he had not counted the number of hours he had spent working on the model, but estimated it to be in the hundreds.

"It is hard to keep track as sometimes I will work on a piece all day and then not touch it again for a week or so when I will begin again," he said.

"All-in-all the digger has taken me just over a year to complete. Other models take less time to make."

The digger is the latest in a long line of models Mr Hurley has created using only matches since he first took up the hobby at the age of 11. He started by creating tobacco tins for people in the area – covering tins in matches of varied shapes and sizes to create different designs.



John Hurley painstakingly puts the finishing touches to a gipsy caravan



The craftsmanship on a gipsy caravan



A wheel of the mechanical digger

"I created a lot of the tins for people. When I was growing up a lot of people used to smoke so the used matches were certainly not in short supply," he said.

"After that it became an interest of mine and I started to look at what else I could create using matches. It has grown from there."

He said his mother Florence had been supportive of her son's talent, spending

and pick-axes which are attached to the side, again from matches.

There are also model mangles, which people used to do their washing, with parts which move when a small handle on the side is turned.

The caravans take Mr Hurley around six months to make in all.

Mr Hurley said he had developed a number of his own techniques over the years, which he did not believe anyone else in the world used to create models of this kind.

One technique involves creating tiny notches in matches with his thumbnail in order to bend them to create wheels and similar structures.

Mr Hurley said he sells his models to people who want them – except for one gipsy caravan which he made for his wife Catherine.

Generous

"I made the JCB digger for someone but unfortunately that has fallen through so I would be happy to hear from anyone who wanted to buy it," he said.

At the moment he is repairing a caterpillar digger he made some time ago which was purchased by someone in America.

"Unfortunately when they got it there they dropped it so I have to piece it all back together again. It is quite complicated because this one has caterpillar tracks," he said.

So where does he get the tens of thousands of matches that he needs for his models?

Mr Hurley said many generous people donated matches for him to use in his work, but he also thought nothing of picking up used ones he found lying in the street.

"In fairness that is how it all started years ago when I was a boy gathering what matches I could," he said.

"It is a shame for them to go to waste when I can make them something with them."

Anyone interested in buying Mr Hurley's mechanical digger can telephone him on 01384 825894.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

AN action plan was launched to tidy up the derelict Birmingham-Wolverhampton railway line, dubbed "the worst view from a train window in Britain". Image-conscious West Midlands County Council planners want to get rid of spoil heaps and derelict factories.

A FIREMAN saved the life of a 16-year-old girl by catching her as she plummeted to the ground after jumping off a narrow ledge. David Drury caught the teenager after she climbed onto the ledge 30ft up, but lost her grip.

BALLET students in Bilston set a record for the school's highest set of exam results. More than 75 per cent of pupils at the Roma Weekes School of Dance scored at least 80 out of a possible 100, with almost half being awarded honours.

1993...

A FAREWELL reception was held for a leading Wolverhampton clergyman as he took a new appointment. The Right Reverend Christopher Mayfield was the town's Bishop for eight years and was inducted to be the Bishop of Manchester.

DINNER lady Jean Parker signed off after 24 years on playground patrol at a Sedgley school. She supervised meals and play times for two generations, including her own four children.

NEARLY 1,000 people formed a human chain to celebrate the opening of nature trail for the disabled at Walsall special school. The path was carved out by Walsall's TA unit to provide access for wheelchair-bound and handicapped youngsters. Children, parents and teachers joined hands at a giant opening party at Three Crowns School.

2003...

ONE of the Black Country's oldest off-licences called last orders after more than a century of trading. The Wine Keg in Brook Street, Gornal Wood, known locally as The Kitchen, closed due to the retirement of proprietors Jim and Janet Cartwright.

FEATHERS were flying in Shipley after a relaxation-loving parrot was snatched from his garden centre home. Jarvis, an 18-month old Jardine parrot, was stolen from under the noses of staff at Gardenland, Bridgnorth Road.

SPRING fever swept across the West Midlands as sun-worshippers basked in the brightest March on record. Temperatures of around 15C became the norm as the region saw over three weeks without a single drop of rain.

Easter Eggstravaganza

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LETTERS

Advertising a job is now a joke

I AM so angry I do not know where to start.

As a small business owner, in this current economic climate I thought the Job Centre plus would be grateful of me giving them the opportunity to advertise two vacancies, one full-time and one part-time.

After trying several different telephone numbers and listening to numerous recorded messages eventually I got to speak to a human being.

Unfortunately this person was of no help or use to me and the current system to advertise a vacancy is nothing

more than a joke. It is no longer possible to give a job centre employee the details of your business and the type of people you are looking for, you have to go through one of the following:

1. Register on line and go through a maze of questions which are time consuming and mostly irrelevant.

2. Send and receive job details by fax.

3. Request register details by post.

I gave up with the online registration as it would not accept my email.

I do not have fax facility.

I wanted to fill the vacancies as

quickly as possible so thought post was not suitable. Whatever happened to human contact where you could discuss the positions available and the type of candidate you are looking for to fill the roll.

If it is this difficult to advertise a job opportunity what is it like for the poor people attempting to find employment.

Someone somewhere needs to take a look at the system in place and sort it out.

RUSS PEARCE
School Street
Sedgley

Talk about rejuvenation amounts to just hot air

I SEE a new housing estate is being built on the site of the old gas works in Constitution Hill, Dudley.

Although I appreciate the need for new housing, I am sure this site could have been better used as a shopping centre or for a well known supermarket, something which would have helped to bring trade back into Dudley.

This would have been ideal as the area is situated right by the Flood Street car parks.

This is another opportunity missed. Time and time again Dudley Council promise to rejuvenate Dudley town centre and then it turns out to be hot air, until Dudley is now officially one of the worst town centres in the country!

This is disgraceful and Dudley Council ought to be ashamed of itself.

J WESTLEY
Summerfield Road
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Nothing to attract visitors to Dudley

I HAVE to disagree with J Westley who considers a new shopping centre or supermarket would be better than housing built on the old gas works site.

Dudley has too many empty shops now because as the retailers found to their cost, the only people that shop in Dudley are Dudley folk so housing a few more would probably benefit the town. What is there to encourage anyone, shoppers or retailers to come to Dudley, parking is a disgrace, the bus depot is filthy with toilets beyond belief for a public place. There is no train service and the only thing of interest to any outsider is the Zoo.

The only way to put Dudley back on the map is to provide something that will bring people in and a good opportunity for that would be to open up the Hippodrome again and open it day and night. We and thousands of others love a good show but have to travel to Birmingham for the nearest, but there is a good train service, nice clean eating houses so when we go we make a day of it. So many folks could do the same at Dudley if they had something to encourage them. Everyone would benefit, shops, restaurants and taxi services.

JENNY JAMES, Dock Road, Wordsley

Hospital parking charges exorbitant

ONCE again the sick and vulnerable are forced to pay more for their parking at Russells Hall Hospital.

The people who have to attend that establishment have no option but to park there to obtain treatment.

At the best of times it's a blood-pressure-raising experience to park and then to be subject to over-booked clinics where they are virtual prisoners unable to leave the car parks and therefore being forced into exorbitant charges.

We now have the chief executive Paula Clark trolloing out the usual rubbish that they have "not taken this lightly". Please! Don't make your stance worse by lessening the truth. Perhaps Ms Clark can explain why she believes that "this brings the cost of our parking in line with many local trusts" more acceptable?

STUART FOX
Halesowen

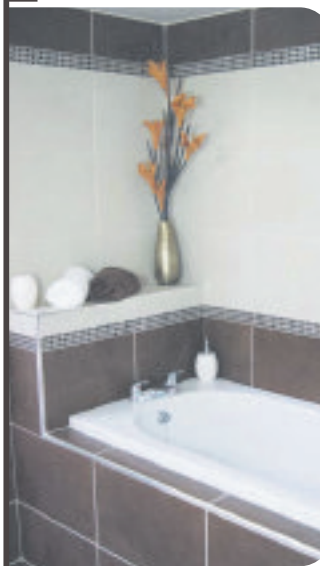
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NEWS

Football game to honour the memory of Christina

A MEMORIAL football match will be held to commemorate the life of a teenage girl who was stabbed to death on a bus.

Christina Edkins, aged 16, was travelling to Halesowen's Leasowes High School when she was killed in Hagley Road, Edgbaston on March 7.

Two supermarket workers are now planning a fundraising match for her family.

Organiser Syd Ramzan, along with Asda colleague Daniel Perry, said the teams will be from Asda Halesowen and Asda Dudley.

The match is on Easter Sunday at 7pm, at Lye Football Club.

The players will each donate £5 and there will also be collection bucket at the entrance to the stands.

Mr Ramzan, a former Leasowes High pupils, said: "I went to that school in the 1990s and what happened to Christina was really local and it felt really close to us. We just wanted to help."

The community has rallied round since Christina's death, including her friends and favourite football team West Bromwich during a half-time tribute this month.

A book of condolence was opened at St Peter's Church in Lapal, Halesowen and shops have raised thousands of pounds.

Phillip Simelane, aged 22, of Walsall recently appeared at Birmingham Crown Court charged with Christina's murder.

Woman, aged 63, dies in blaze in 10th floor flat

A WOMAN has died after a fire broke out in the living room of her Dudley flat.

The 63-year-old, who has not been named, was found dead at the property in Baylie Court, Green Street, Stourbridge.

Fire, ambulance and police crews were called to the block of flats, off Stourbridge Ring Road. They arrived to discover a fire in the living room of the 10th-floor flat. During a search of the property, crews found the dead woman.

Isabel fashions finals place



Contestants and models in the competition at the NEC, Birmingham



Finalist, Isabel Drew, aged 14

A TEENAGE fashion student from Kingswinford strutted her stuff on the catwalk at the finals of a national design competition.

Isobel Drew, aged 14, was one of only 15 finalists in the Fashion Embroidery & Stitch contest, which drew more than 250 entrants from across the UK.

The Summerhill School student modelled her 1950s-inspired dress - incorporating orange, purple and blue fabrics and a plastic pearl covered neckline - at the NEC in Birmingham.

Ms Drew, of Dene Avenue, said: "It was very scary. I've never done anything like it before. The competition standard was very high. When I saw some of the other designs I thought I had no chance, so I'm very proud to have made it so far."

The competition was organised by ICHF Ltd and Inkberrow Design Centre. It challenged students to design and create clothing based on an 1950s icons.

Ms Drew said: "Mine was Audrey Hepburn. It took me a long time to decide what I wanted, but when I saw pictures of her the ideas came flooding in."

"I went for bright colours because it would be different to the black dress she's known for."

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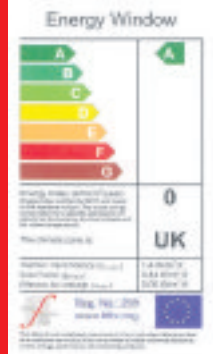
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NEWS

Samuel's tasty treat



Muffin Break director Heather Teese with 12-year-old Samuel Duffell, who was making muffins

A SCHOOLBOY learned how to bake one of his favourite foods as a special treat.

Samuel Duffell, aged 12, visited staff at Muffin Break, in Dudley's Merry Hill Shopping Centre, to learn how the muffins are made. And it was not long before the youngster, who attends Pedmore Technology College, was having a go at making one of the treats himself.

Samuel had to undergo treatment to remove four teeth at Russells Hall Hospital in January.

After the operation, he was asked by volunteer Steve Field, who runs the Wishing Well charity based at the hospital's children's ward, what he would like as a treat when he got better.

The arrangements were made and the visit took place last week. Samuel's mum Heidi, of Dudley, said he had a wonderful time meeting staff at Muffin Break and seeing how the cakes were made. "He was really excited about going and he had a really great time. He absolutely adores muffins so this was the perfect treat for him. It is really kind of everyone to organise this treat for him."

Taxi drivers planning a protest over white cars

DOZENS of taxi drivers in Dudley are planning three 'slow drives' through the town in protest at councillors who refused a change in policy over car colours.

by Andrew Turton

They claim the council rules to only allow white private hire vehicles is squeezing their incomes as the colour is more expensive due to its current popularity with celebrities.

However, councillors say a single colour is safer for customers as it makes taxis more recognisable.

Members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association have now voted to stage the slow drives, which will go past Dudley Council House, to highlight their concerns.

But they have decided against a full strike, saying they do not want to cause problems for their customers.

Group chairman Shaz Saleem said the association is also taking legal advice to see if it can mount a challenge against the council's restriction.

He added: "I welcome the move from our members because they want to send out a message to the council

that we want to be treated with respect.

"The majority of our members voted against going on strike because if we had gone out then it would have been unfair on the customers who have shown us a lot of support.

"We have many people who rely on us to take them to hospital appointments, shopping, to the airport and other customers who have disabilities for which we provide a service.

"There will be a slow drive organised because all the taxi drivers want to show the council the strength of feeling over this."

More than 1,000 drivers and customers had signed a petition calling for the rules to be changed.

Mr Saleem, who is managing director at Beacon Taxis, in Sedgley and Express Taxis, in Halesowen, said that white cars can cost up to £2,000 extra.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Dudley and the surrounding area and Brian

is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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NEWS

Tributes after death of autism group's founder

A CARER who helped set up one of the Black Country's first support groups for families of people suffering with autism has died at the age of 68.

Sylvia Tromans, a founder member of the Wolverhampton & South Staffs Support Group in 1988, originally hosted meetings at her home in Finchfield, Wolverhampton.

She set it up with husband Paul after daughter, Nicola, was diagnosed with autism and dedicated nine years to a group, which started with three members and grew to more than 75 at its peak.

Mother-of-three Jan Playford, 60, attended from the start as son Robert, now 32, was diagnosed with autism.

She said: "Sylvia was the first contact for many parents for over 15 years, not just from Wolverhampton but from Walsall, Dudley and South Staffs."

They provided contact and activities for parents, children and young adults. As numbers grew they linked with West Midlands Autistic Society, which has support groups across the region. Activities included visits to the cinema, and they would rent out the Light House, Wolverhampton.

Her daughter, Nicola, 24, died in 2003 after bowel problems. Mrs Tromans, who died after a short illness, was "unassuming" but "very sincere in trying to do her best for people", her husband said.

She leaves daughter Victoria, 37, who works for the Camphill charity supporting people with learning disabilities.

New gym will bring jobs

A NEW gym chain is to open in Brierley Hill, creating up to 15 jobs. Pure Gym has set its sights on the former Fitness First base in Level Street, which closed last year.

The new 25,402 sq ft gym will employ between 12 and 15 staff and will be open 24 hours a day. Pure Gym spokesman Thomas Inskip confirmed the centre is expected to open in May. Work to refit the building is underway.

Spring in the air, really



Jenny Knott, Katherine Guest, Lucy Greenway and Frankie Whitehouse with lambs and new-born chicks at the Owl and Falconry Centre

THE chilling temperatures may not be showing it, but the lambing season is providing the surest sign yet that spring has almost sprung.

And bosses at an animal centre near Dudley are welcoming a host of baby animals marking the change in seasons.

Three new-born lambs – which are named Dolly, Darrent and Daisy – are among the new residents at the Owl and Falconry Centre.

They have also been joined at the centre at Halfpenny Green Vineyards by three out of 12 chicks expected to hatch soon. The animals are located in the centre's children's pets' corner, which was opened six months ago to provide youngsters

with an understanding of where their food comes from.

Also at the centre are 10 pigs, 12 fully-grown chickens, geese and rabbits.

Manager John Hollins said: "Whenever there is a new-born animal at the centre there is excitement among everyone."

"The children enjoy coming in to see, feed and even touch the animals while they walk around the centre. It provides many with their first chance to be up close with some of the animals."

The centre opened 12 months ago and is home to more than 40 birds of prey including barn and eagle owls and falcons.



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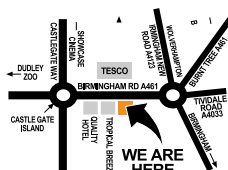
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Apprentices for Premier

HOTEL chain Premier Inn is to take on 500 apprentices by the end of the year. Premier Inn, which has hotels across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Worcestershire, has created 1,100 jobs in the past year.

The hotel chain, part of the Whitbread group, announced plans to create the apprenticeships as it opened its 650th hotel in the UK and Ireland at Waterloo, London. Patrick Dempsey, managing director of Whitbread Hotels and Restaurants, said: "Whitbread has a long history of helping young people further their careers."

Lottery over benefits

A POSTCODE lottery will greet benefit claimants next month under controversial changes to council tax.

Each local authority has had to bring in its own scheme to provide help with council tax bills after the Government stripped them of millions of pounds of support.

From next month, they will lose 10 per cent of the funding they had to provide council tax support.

But they will have to continue to fund help for pensioners, which means the cuts can only be passed on to working-age people, some of whom will face cuts of 20 per cent in their council tax benefit.

Some authorities are absorbing the

cuts for another year while others will be passing on some or all of the cut and will expect thousands of people to start contributing more towards services, such as bin collections, street lighting and libraries.

Councils in Dudley and Walsall are absorbing millions of pounds of cuts and will keep paying the same rates of council tax benefit.

In Sandwell, claimants will have to have lived in the borough for two years before being eligible for support with council tax bills in a bid to prevent benefit tourism.

It comes as 20,000 working age people in Wolverhampton will have to start paying an average of £73 a year towards their council tax bills from next month. The city council is expect-

ing people to pay 8.5 per cent of their council tax bills, although funding has been reduced by much more.

In South Staffordshire people face a 20 per cent cut in council tax benefit. And help will be capped at Band D. Anyone in a Band E property or above will pay the difference.

The amounts people will pay will vary based on circumstances. For example, a working single mother of two, both aged over five and living in a Band F home would be expected to pay £29.37 a week in council tax.

A single disabled person in a housing association property would continue to be exempt from paying council tax.

But in Sandwell, bosses have decided to continue to foot the bill for 18,000 people, despite losing £3.2m in grants.

Jasper promises night of nostalgia with show

HE might be one of the country's most famous Brummies - but comedian Jasper Carrott says there will be lots of musical nostalgia for audiences in the Black Country in his latest show.

Made in Brum will see him join forces with some of the area's most recognised music names as they tell the story of how rock 'n' roll developed and bought many of the region's bands success through playing at iconic venues such as Wolverhampton Civic Hall thanks to their devoted fans.

The tour - which starts at Dudley Town Hall on April 11 - is led by the comic delivering a nostalgic look at the faces, places and music of Birmingham's Brum Beat scene.

He is accompanied by the musicians and singers behind that sound playing hits from

the 60s and beyond including former ELO drummer Bev Bevan, Trevor Burton, of The Move, and Geoff Turton, of the Rockin' Berries. Singers Joy Strachan-Brain, of Quill, and 50s and 60s star Danny King will be taking part with The Bev Bevan Band.

Jasper said he has fond memories of playing stand-up gigs in the Black Country, including performing at JB's nightclub in Dudley as he started out on the comedy circuit. "I played at JB's a few times when I was just starting out. It was a terrific place, really enjoyed my gigs there," he said.

"Dudley Town Hall will be special on the opening night as the first date of the tour is often the best as everyone is high on adrenaline and really looking forward to the gig."

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NEWS

Punching for charity



Back from left, coach and treasurer Steve Gough with boxers, Ricky Summer, Luke Paddock and Ryan Aston and, front, event organiser Mitch Gough

A DUDLEY boxing club is hoping for a knockout event when it offers amateurs the chance to get in the ring with professionals to raise money for charity.

The Priory Boxing Club is hoping to raise £1,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support when it hosts its sponsored 'Sparathon' on April 27.

Organiser Mitch Gough, whose father Steve and uncle Paul run the club, said: "Every year we put on charity events to raise awareness of the gym and to raise money for various causes.

"This charity is very close to Paul's heart as they supported his parents when they were diagnosed with cancer.

"We want to get people involved and raise money for a good cause. Obviously the lads aren't going to knock their heads off. We want to raise money, not scare them."

The professionals booked to take part at the Priory Road club are Ryan Aston, Tommy Ghent, Ricky Summers, Luke Paddock, Lance Brookes and Ryan Corrigan.

Prizes will be available for the top fundraisers. Mr Gough said they could include signed memorabilia. A ticket to fight another amateur costs £20 and to fight a professional £30. Both prices cover coaching and equipment, as well as a commemorative Fight Cancer Priory Park T-shirt.

To book, visit www.prioryparkboxing.co.uk.

Change of heart over building on old war club

PLANS to build four care homes for young adults on the site of a derelict war memorial club have been withdrawn and replaced with an alternative scheme for four houses.

The scheme to demolish Amblecote War Memorial Club and build four detached care homes for young adults was submitted to Dudley Council in January.

But agents for the applicant Bains Builders Limited said further consultation had raised concerns over traffic levels going in and out of the site if the development went ahead.

The applicant had decided to withdraw the original scheme and submit the revised proposal to build four regular houses on the site instead.

These plans have now been submitted to Dudley Council for consideration.

Under the new scheme, the dilapidated club building will still be demolished but will be replaced by the houses - each would have four en-suite bedrooms. The homes would be brick with the style designed to be in keeping with existing surrounding properties.

Cars would get to the site from the existing access point in Amblecote High Street and each house will have two car parking spaces.

by Andrew Turton

Agent Tommy Wong said in a report: "Following the recent submission for four care homes further consultation took place.

"Concerns were raised regarding excessive traffic flow going in and out of the site. It was therefore the applicant's decision to withdraw the application and resubmit a revised proposal.

"All comments received have been taken on board and incorporated in the scheme submitted as part of this application."

The former club building has suffered vandalism, fire and weather damage since it closed in 2002.

It was founded in 1921 for ex-servicemen. A lack of bookings and activities was cited for its closure.

The site was on the market for three years.

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Jo has worked in the Gornal area for over 25 years, her experience with cutting and confidence with colour is second to none.

She worked firstly in Upper Gornal with a well known hairdresser who has recently retired, and then later to go into business with Andrea at Boyz 2 Men Ladies 2, which has thrived on the expertise of Andrea's barbering skills and Jo's ladies techniques for over 10 years now with their loyal staff (most of whom have been with the girls for that length of time) make up the friendly team.

Jo was diagnosed with breast cancer in June of last year (2012) having battled through chemo and radio after having a mastectomy she has returned to work on a Thurs, Fri, Sat.

She was overwhelmed with cards and gifts from her clients some of those clients she has had for 25 years but after 8 months off work she would like to welcome old and new clients back to her and the salon.



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NEWS

Borough jobless figures have risen, says report

JOB queues in Dudley are getting longer as the UK's unemployed total rose by 7,000 from November to January to 2.52 million, according to new figures.

The West Midlands jobless rose by 4,000 to 241,000 from the previous quarter. Numbers claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the region rose 3,673 to 166,605 - 4.7 per cent of the working population.

In Dudley the claimant count increased by 98 to 10,437, or 5.3 per cent of the borough's working population - above the UK's average of 3.9 per cent.

Wyre Forest saw an increase of 48 to 2,328 (3.8 per cent) and South Staffordshire was up by just two to 1,737 or 2.6 per cent.

Roma Aitken, regional manager for Totaljobs.com in the West Midlands said: "What little job creation there has been over the last few months has largely been based on government programmes such as apprenticeship schemes."

"The retail industry has been hit the hardest in the region, with the loss of major high street chains at the beginning of the year who were struggling to keep up with online competition."

"The loss of many retail jobs has no doubt affected the West Midlands as those who previously may have entered the sector are forced to think about alternative jobs, increasing competition across the region."

For Sandwell the total was up 446 to 14,155 (7.2 per cent) and Wolverhampton had a rise of 221 to 12,691 - eight per cent, the highest rate in the West Midlands.

Birmingham was up 749 to 49,504 (7.2 per cent) and Walsall rose by 298 to 10,565 (6.3 per cent).

Monkey computer business



Checking that she has her figures right is primate keeper Cerys Grove with a couple of the monkeys at Dudley Zoo

DUDLEY Zoo has become one of the first in the world to pioneer a computer system making it easier to keep records of the animals.

Workers at the zoo have been getting to grips with the advanced Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS).

The internet-based programme will allow easier access to animal care data and will allow keepers to share information with their coun-

terparts across the world. It also provides a simpler system for the zoo to update its animal movement records when species are transferred to or from other zoos.

Staff enter a daily record of the animals in a diary and that information will now be transferred into the new system. This includes medical information.

Previously information was entered into different systems.

Bird boxes for university

MORE than 30 bird boxes have been installed at the University of Worcester. B&Q in Malvern has sponsored the scheme, donating the boxes that will be monitored annually by environment students from the university.

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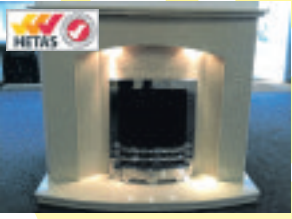
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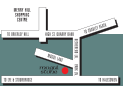


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On top of that, each family will receive a £100 gift card for Merry Hill to have an Easter splurge on toys, eggs, or whatever else takes their fancy!

TV favourite Mike, a 10-year-old knight-in-training, is known to kids for his forays into an enchanting medieval world along with wizard-in-training sister Evie and trusted steed Galahad.

Activity

He'll be performing a special storytelling show for youngsters on Tuesday, April 9 at Fountain Square, where he'll captivate kids with sagas of his marvelous missions in a world of castles, dragons, Vikings and trolls.

Five lucky families (up to three children and two parents) will gain entrance to the show, and will afterwards have a personal chat with the star and a shopping splurge on the centre.

If readers miss out on Mike, other CBeebies favourites Yojojo and De Li On from Waybuloo will also be stopping by Westfield on Tuesday April 2.

Lots of other half-term activity will be taking place across the centre, from free cupcake bunny sessions in Eat Central to comic and superhero mask making classes, to the opening of Quest's Nerf combat zone and the UK's first Yu-kids soft play area.

More information can be found at <http://uk.westfield.com/merryhill/>



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Hundreds of pay appeals by workers are on hold

APPEALS by hundreds of council workers over plans to cut their pay have been put on hold after senior staff raised concerns.

It has emerged that about eight of 93 appeals heard so far may see Wolverhampton City Council facing potential legal action.

The eight are believed to create pay inequalities between men and women – wait the council is trying to remove in new pay arrangements known as “single status”.

Under changes announced last year, 5,423 staff will get a pay rise and 1,242 a cut from April 2014. More than 900 appeals have been lodged by those losing out.

Keith Ireland, council strategic director for delivery, said: “The council has addressed its historic pay liabilities and

under no circumstances could the council sanction the creation of any new pay inequalities – this would not only be illegal but would also put the council at enormous financial risk at a time when we are already facing an unprecedented financial challenge.

“The conclusion of the review, which has the support of independent expert Sue Hastings and the trade unions, is that the appeals process to date has not been conducted with the necessary level of rigour.”

Every council in the country has been forced to draw up new salary scales that pay men and women equivalent wages for equivalent work.

Wolverhampton’s appeals are suspended until April 22 which means workers querying pay are now not likely to know the outcome until the autumn.

Cafe plagued by litter

A CAFE owner says he is at his wits’ end over the bags of rubbish being left outside the doors of his business in Brierley Hill and wants action taken.

Jamie Owen owns Brierley Sausage and has put up with the bags of household waste turning customers off his business since he took it over on December 13, but now says he has had enough and took to Twitter to vent his frustrations over the situation at the premises, in High Street.

He said some of the rubbish came from nearby flats and was dumped in front of his shop on a regular basis.

Mr Owen, aged 23, said: “It’s not very nice having to ask customers to walk past full rubbish bags piled

waist-high but there doesn’t seem to be much we can do about it.”

What is even more frustrating for Mr Owen is that his cafe has a four-star hygiene rating from the council but the rubbish bags outside make would-be customers think otherwise.

Awful

He said: “It’s definitely having a knock-on effect on my trade and it just looks awful having people see all that rubbish stacked up outside the cafe.”

“We take hygiene really seriously but since the first day we came here we had problems with the rubbish.”

Mr Owen decided enough was enough and took to Twitter to vent his frustration while he waited for Dudley Council waste collectors to take away the latest rubbish. His

anger was answered with numerous messages of support from locals and relief when the rubbish was finally collected.

Brierley Hill Traders’ Association Shane Birch-Bastock said he had heard reports from a few other shops along the town’s High Street experiencing similar problems.

He said: “We’ve had people using other people’s bins before and there have been arguments about that.”

Councillor Judy Foster, said: “Following reports of litter in Brierley Hill our crews have collected from the area and officers are investigating the matter.”

“We take fly-tipping and littering very seriously. People can report littering to dudleycouncilplus@dudley.gov.uk or by calling 0300 555 2345.

MP hits at cash lottery

A DUDLEY MP has criticised what he sees as a “postcode lottery” in health funding where wealthy areas of the south receive more per head than the West Midlands.

Labour’s Ian Austin said the well-heeled residents of Kensington and Chelsea will get £130 per person per year towards public health spending from next month.

But the Black Country, which has much lower life expectancy rates, gets an average of £64 a year per person.

Dudley will receive £59 per head, Sandwell £66 and Wolverhampton £75.

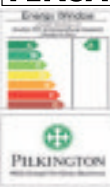
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Christ Church, Lye, pictured in about 1900 before its redesign



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So reads the inscription on a tablet dedicated to the Rev James Bromley in Christ Church, Lye, which this year celebrates its 200th anniversary.

The few surviving historical documents from the period suggest the inhabitants were not exactly renowned for their hospitality, and the presence of a clergyman was not a welcome one.

In fact, Mr Bromley's predecessor, the not-so-popular Melsup Hill, is said to have been stoned out of the village by infuriated residents.

At this time the main industries of the area were nail-making, chain-making and coal mining and Mr Bromley arrived in 1844 into this harsh, industrial climate with strong views about how people should go about their daily lives.

Yet his methods clearly struck a chord with the populace. One of his first notable acts was to rescue two miners from drown-

by *Peter Madeley*

ing – a deed that immediately won the hearts of the people of Lye.

Mr Bromley set about the monumental task of attempting to civilise his unruly flock. Parishioners were taken down to the River Stour and shown how to bathe, and taught table manners while sharing food in his home.

The minister was a staunch advocate of abstinence, and despite his frail stature he would take stern measures to enforce this restraint when necessary.

He was known to enter local hosteleries and drag out unsuspecting church members who had reverted to their drunken ways.

Response

One tale in the memoirs of his successor, the Rev David Robertson, recounts him striking a church member across the back with his cane after seeing him playing the fool in the street.

The young man's response was to visit the priest the next morning and thank him!

Mr Bromley's dedication is probably best exemplified by his daily ritual of rising at 4am to hold services and preach to miners on their way to work. At a time when educa-

tional institutions were a rarity, he also acted as a teacher to the young men of Lye in an effort to stop them from hanging around in the streets.

During the early years of his tenure he increased the capacity of the church, making seating available for more than 1,000 parishioners – a quite remarkable figure when you consider the population of Lye was around 4,000 at the time.

Sadly, Mr Bromley died suddenly in his chair in December 19, 1865 after 21 years of devoted service, leaving a widow and 10 children. He was aged 54.

In a poignant twist, his sermon the previous Sunday was based on the text from Hebrews 11:4 from the King James Bible: "He being dead, yet speaketh."

Those words can still be seen to this day, carved on his tombstone outside the front of Christ Church.

The high esteem with which his congregation held him in was shown by the fact that almost £3,000 was raised for his family, at a time when the living wage was only £240 per year.

This figure would equate to around £175,000 today.

Thanks to Bob and Sheila Field for their help in researching this article.



The Rev James Bromley who died in his chair in 1865

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CLUB NEWS

Speaker to be Lord Cobham

WOLLASTON 'E' TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham opened the March meeting to a gathering of 49 members and three visitors. Apologies were read and a minute's silence observed in memory of long-standing member Beryl Grego.

The meeting incorporated the AGM and the chairman reported that all the present officers were standing again. The committee had been restored to its original number.

The treasurer reported that the guild's finances were in a healthy position.

Secretary Sue Ward gave a full report on the extensive activities enjoyed during the previous year, while vice chairman Hazel Heedham read out the constitution of the guild.

The chairman gave a positive report on the past year, but requested that an injection of new blood was required to prevent the demise of the drama group.

The presentation of the shield to the bowls competition winner, Marion Clarke, was made, followed by the speakers' competition cup, to Sue Ward.

Raffle winners were Jill Tranter and Jill Perry. The evening's proceedings were concluded with a very competitive quiz.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 9 from 7.30pm and the speaker will be Lord Cobham.

The competition concerns anything connected with Hagley Hall.

Donation towards orphanage project



Wolverhampton SI president Gail Wedge presents a cheque to Kevin Curtis for £525

WOLVERHAMPTON SI

FOLLOWING an enjoyable meal, members were entertained by veterinary surgeon Tom Bingham, who spoke of the amusing happenings at his practice.

Tom has been a vet for more than 30 years. He is involved at Monmore Green Greyhound track as well as having his own Veterinary Practice in Wolverhampton.

Members were pleased to welcome back

Kevin Curtis from the Footprints Orphanage in Kenya. Members have committed themselves to long term support of the orphanage and a donation of £525 will be used to buy books to support the development of a school attached to the site.

Federation quiz invitation

WEST MIDLANDS FEDERATION

THE West Midlands Federation of Townswomen's Guilds are holding their annual quiz on Monday June 3 at Stourbridge Football Club from 7pm.

All guilds within the West Midlands Federation are invited to enter the quiz. Teams consisting of four

guild members may enter. This event has been organised by Jean Williams. The next event will be the National AGM being held in Harrogate on June 12. The

guest speakers will be announced at a later date.

Most guilds within the Federation area are recruiting for new members. Anyone interested is asked to ring Federation secretary Hazel Butt on 01299 250957 for any information about guilds in your locality.

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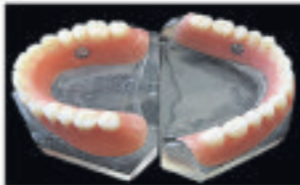
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**Betty is free
from pain
after having
implants**

A WOMAN who had suffered years of pain with two jaw conditions has finally found relief after undergoing dental implant surgery.

Betty had worn dentures for many years but developed neuralgia and her trigeminal nerve had become inflamed.

"I had terrible jaw pain and suffered pins and needles in the side of my head and tongue. It's a terrible condition. I'd had an MRI scan and had seen a specialist, but was still without relief," she says.

Clinical dental technician Mr Burchell had made dentures for Betty seven years ago and she returned to his clinic to inquire about a new prescription because the lower denture had lost its stability.

"I had put up with the floating effect of my lower denture and needed to address the problem. My lower gum had receded so much my denture was pressing down on a nerve and causing me pain," she adds.

"Steven explained the benefits of implant-retained dentures and told me it would allow my bite to be opened some more. Since having the implants on my lower denture, I have experienced no more pain."

Mr Burchell said all dentures have a shelf life and Betty's denture problem was due to shrinkage of her gums - a naturally occurring aging process.

"We hoped for an improved outcome on her condition, but never dreamed that the final clinical result could be so rewarding with Betty being free from pain," he adds.

Suction another solution

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley and other clinics in Wolverhampton and Bearwood, says the invention has the potential to resolve issues with the poor stabilisation of dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthesis.

Mr Burchell, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The den-

ture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what I can describe only as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product.

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

'Toolbox'

"The beauty of this technology is that it can offer for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work.

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can

present stability problems as the jaw bone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and create painful friction problems on gums.

Mr Burchell adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower palates and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste.

"The Ultra Suction kit increases the options in our clinical 'toolbox' and can provide affordable solutions to many patients who would not wish to pursue the stability resolve with implants.

"I remain passionate about the transformations good prosthetics can achieve."

Typically, patients will be encouraged to contribute their views to treatment plans and generally be assigned more than three-and-a-half clinical hours in achieving the best possible outcome.



Making the transformation and providing a cost-effective solution for upper and lower denture stability, the Ultra Suction prosthetics use a clever diaphragm system to help provide wearers with greater dental security

The Denture Clinic is at 82 Tettenthall Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4TF. Don't suffer any longer - call 01902 539300 for a free consultation. We can also be found at the Fresh Dental practice, 4 St Mary's Road, Bearwood, Birmingham, B67 5DG. Call 01384 348594 to book an appointment

NEWS

Full scheme submitted for 150 homes project

Time for a little horror



Theatre society members Mary Lawton-Jones, left, and Morgan Floyd, both aged 14, director Steve Humpherson and Adam Siviter

A THEATRE group is holding open auditions for the first time in its 52-year history hoping to get more members for its next production.

Following a change in the group's rules, auditions for this year's major performance, *Little Shop of Horrors*, are open to anybody.

Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Society spokeswoman Julia Siviter said: "We're looking for some fresh blood and also hopefully some younger ones."

"Before the change in our constitution, you had to be a member through one show before you were able to audition for a role. We're hoping that open auditions will be the way we do things from now on."

Little Shop of Horrors is this

year's major production. The group performs concerts during the year, does regular four-night performances of *Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance!* at The Cornbow Hall, Halesowen.

Mrs Siviter said, while *Little Shop* was a smaller "cult" production, the group was hoping it would attract new members. Stephen Humpherson has been appointed director and Richard Ganner musical director.

Open auditions for principal parts will be held at Birch Coppice Methodist Church on April 27.

Anyone interested can contact Mr Fletcher on chairman@qbmts.org.uk or complete the online registration form at www.qbmts.org.uk/inproduction.html. The deadline for applications is April 23.

MULTI-MILLION pound plans for up to 150 homes on a business park in Stourbridge are moving forward after developers lodged detailed designs with the council.

Taylor Wimpey already has outline planning permission for the scheme on land at Sunrise Business Park, Wollaston.

But it has now had to submit the full proposals to Dudley Council before work can start on the development.

It includes designs of what the houses would look like as well as the layout of the properties and roads around the estate.

The application, submitted by Matthew Price of Taylor Wimpey, says: "The scheme will regenerate a unique area of Stourbridge and will transform unused industrial land into a sustainable residential area."

It includes a mixture of two, three and four-bedroom houses as well as new apartments. There will be 354 parking spaces.

The council will make a decision in the coming months on the site that had been home to Sunrise Medical Ltd, which relocated to Thorns Road, Brierley Hill, and Caparo Aluminium Technologies which moved to Bridgnorth following protests from residents about noise and pollution.

When the outline plans were lodged, objections were raised by nearby residents.

The land, in High Street, neighbours the River Stour and Stourbridge Canal and, after two major floods, people feared the development would make matters worse.

But planning officers assured councillors, the area would be built up to protect new homes.

£7m loss hits food group

THE 2 Sisters Food Group in the Black Country has revealed losses of more than £7 million. Its parent company Boparan Holdings of West Bromwich has reported total sales of £626.5 million for the 13 weeks up until the end of January. But profits were hit by the falling pound and the impact of restructuring costs.

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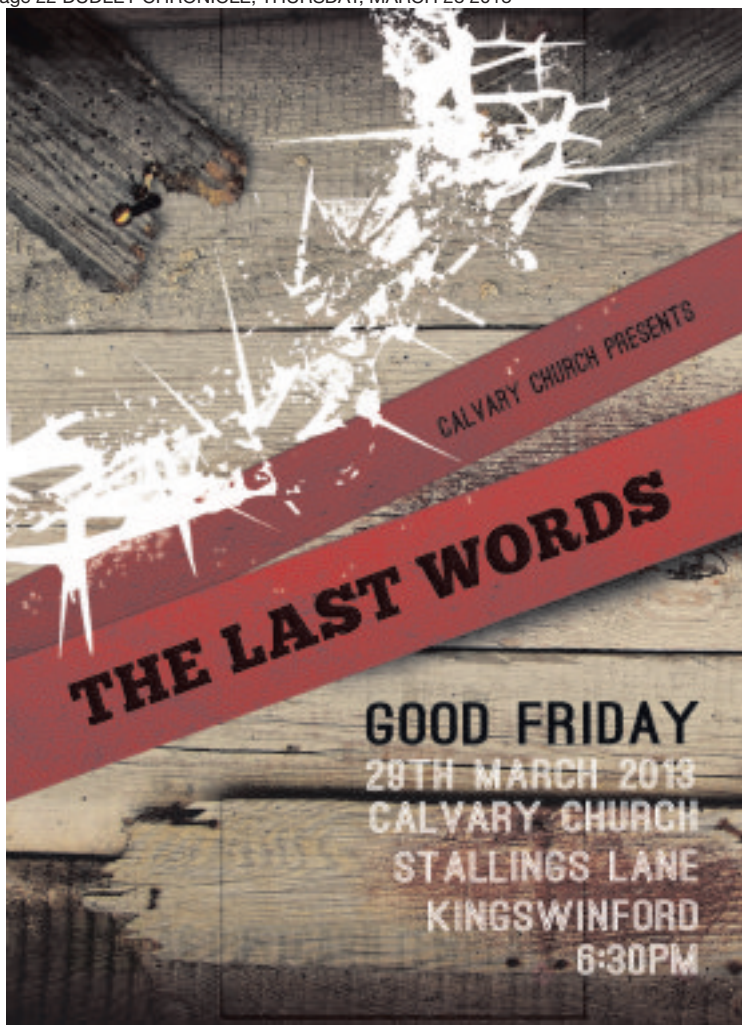
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THE WAY I SEE IT

Support grows for bringing Churchill back to precinct

SINCE I launched the campaign to get Dudley's Churchill Memorial restored two weeks ago I've been flooded by supportive comments.

People in the town really want to see this happen and dozens of residents have shared their memories with me.

One local man remembered as a kid waiting outside Beatties with his sister and looking up at the spitfires and boats, in awe at the magnificent colour and design.

Another said it made him feel part of the United Kingdom not just a small town.

Another resident emailed to say she and her husband moved to Dudley from London the day after their wedding in 1967 and remembered walking around the town to learn their way around.

"We had no family and no friends in the West Midlands, it was pouring with rain that day and I stood in the half-completed Churchill Precinct, wondering if we had done the right thing in coming here.

Very soon we found we had wonderful neighbours, we made many friends and rapidly came to love the area. My memories of that time start in the Precinct and I would love to see the memorial restored."

I was particularly delighted that two residents with a special attachment to the memorial have offered their wholehearted support.

Phyllis Coyle lived above



Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

"My memories of that time start in the precinct and I would love to see the memorial restored."

the precinct with her husband Mick for many years.

Mick was the town centre manager and he also served on the Arctic Convoys during the Second World War, braving freezing temperatures and perilous seas to keep the Soviet Union supplied on the Eastern Front, something Churchill himself called as "the worst journey in the world."

Mick was responsible for looking after the glass panels and was closely involved in efforts to prevent them being taken down.

His widow, Phyllis has said a restored memorial would be the perfect way to remember Churchill and what he did during the war.

And her views have been echoed by Gordon Willetts, a local WWII veteran and Secretary of the Worcester and Foresters Regiment.

He says bringing the

stained glass panels back to the town centre would be a fitting way to mark the 50th anniversary of his death.

Over the coming weeks I'm going to be speaking to the council to find out exactly what remains of the memorial and what state it is in.

Then we're going to work with glass experts, local colleges and others to see how it can be restored and where exactly Dudley's tribute to Churchill should go.

Education and skills

Last Thursday I spoke at Dudley Council's Education Committee. I set out why I think we must make education and skills our number one priority. I think teaching is one of the most important jobs in our society.

I know how hard teachers work and I know the difference good teachers make to

children's lives. But results in Dudley and the Black Country lag behind the rest of the country and mean not enough young people get good GCSEs and A levels, go to university or pursue apprenticeships to get technical skills.

In my constituency just two out of six schools achieved the national average for five good GCSEs including Maths and English.

I told the committee an improvement in school standards will only be possible if the council, schools and the whole community place greater emphasis on the importance of education.

There are fewer jobs now for people without good qualifications and there'll be fewer still in future.

The only way we'll attract new industries and new jobs is by showing investors we've got the skills they need.

We need a relentless focus on driving up standards. The truth is that we have not valued education highly enough but we're as good as anyone and youngsters here deserve the same chance as kids anywhere else.

Beer duty

There was plenty in the budget I didn't agree with but the cut in beer duty is good news for local brewers and pub owners.

We've got some of the breweries and the best pubs in the country here in the Black Country and I'm looking forward to seeing them go from strength to strength.

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Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

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What's On! Dudley

Voice of an angel in excellent show

Phantom of the Opera, B-ham Hippodrome
ANGEL of Music she certainly is. Katie Hall, as Christine, in this stunning performance of Phantom of the Opera just stole the show.

Her performance was mesmerising, showing not only does she have a superb voice she can also act.

Birmingham Hippodrome was packed, and not surprisingly, once word gets out of how good this is there is likely to be a scramble for tickets. It runs until May 4 so book up, this is definitely one not to miss.

Performances from Earl Carpenter as the Phantom and Carlotta, the ousted star, were excellent.

Amusing

There were some amusing interludes as the Phantom sent notes to various cast members and high drama as the huge chandelier started to "drop" above the audience but the real highlight was the spectacular voice and passion shown by Kate which literally made the spine tingle.

The story, which by now must be well known, is of Erik, who is a musical genius but whose face is horribly disfigured and hides from the world in the dungeons of the Paris Opera House.

He falls in love with a young singer, Christine and starts to coach her to become a perfect singer.

And he certainly did a very good job.

Sue Attwater

Northern soul Lisa is on her way for a comeback

SHE'S been all around the world but now Lancashire soul queen Lisa Stansfield is on her way back to the UK's concert halls.

The Rochdale girl who lit up the early '90s with her distinctive kiss curl, soulful vocals and mega-hit All Around The World, will be reconnecting with her Midlands fans at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Sunday, June 16.

That comes the day after what is set to be a triumphant homecoming at Salford's Lowry Theatre.

The double Brit Award-winner, who sold 20 million albums and topped the charts in 12 countries, is putting the finishing touches to her seventh album, following a handful of acclaimed low-key gigs last year.

She is also due to have a starring role alongside Steve Coogan in a new British movie this year, Northern Soul. It's about the 1970s dance music scene that was hugely popular in the North and Midlands.

Break

For the past seven years Lisa has had a break from the music scene but the 46-year-old is now keeping true to her word in hit song Someday (I'm Coming Back).

She's not the only female hit-maker back on the road. Former Yazoo star Alison Moyet returns with album The Minutes in May and a Symphony Hall concert on October 28.



Concert - Lisa Stansfield



Michael Ball had a hit in 1989 with Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Changes Everything

A perfect song for Michael

WEST End star and popular crooner Michael Ball will be performing a new song written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Leslie Bricusse when he appears in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Saturday, April 27.

The Perfect Song is the first collaboration between the songwriting giants. Lloyd Webber has written many of the most successful musicals of the past four decades. Bricusse's classics include The Candy Man, Goldfinger and What Kind Of Fool Am I?

The new song features on Michael Ball's latest album Both Sides Now and has been released as a single. Also featured is Fight The Fight, from Tim Rice and Stuart Brayson's forthcoming musical From Here To Eternity.

Scottish rockers turn out topless

Biffy Clyro, LG Arena, Birmingham
ONLY Revolutions may have been Biffy Clyro's fifth studio album, but it propelled them into the spotlight - and since then the wheel of fortune has continued to turn for the Scottish rockers.

And, they proved Opposites attract as their new tour, taken from the name of album number six, drew the crowds to the second city.

There was the warning that the trio may go topless - and they duly did throughout the whole set, from the opening Different People to the finale of Mountains, with that Matt Cardle classic thrown in between, along with some older material.

There's been debate over the name, and they claim to be uncool, but there's no doubt they put on a rocking show. In just the second performance of what is their biggest arena tour to date, the likes of Bubbles and Who's Got a Match? had the whole crowd bouncing, while lead vocalist Simon Neil threw in solos including Machines and God and Satan for good measure.

Mark Shipp

Toyah's hormones
FORMER punk pop queen Toyah returns to her native West Midlands as a comic actress. She takes the lead role in Hormonal Housewives at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on April 2 and 3.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 31.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Donald Campbell: Speed King

BBC2, 8pm
When it comes to daredevils, few are as celebrated as Donald Campbell. While the likes of Evel Knievel may grab the attention, Campbell retains a place in the UK public's hearts thanks to his good old-fashioned stiff upper lip, determination and ambition. His story is retold in this gripping documentary, from his childhood when he would witness his father Malcolm's daredevil attempts to break land and water speed records during the 1920s and 1930s, to his own career and eventual death at Coniston Water in 1967.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 8.15 Match of the Day. 10.00 Live Easter Sunday from Paisley Abbey. **11.00 Urbi et Orbi. 11.35 Countryfile. (R) 12.30 BBC News; Weather. 12.40 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.25 Escape to the Country. 1.55 Film: Madagascar. (2005) 3.15 The Boat Race 2013. 5.25 Songs of Praise. 6.00**
Deadly 60 on a Mission. Steve Backshall searches for lethal animals in Mexico, encountering a bull shark, the speedy sailfish, an army of predatory bats and a dark cave of hanging serpents.
6.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison is at St Michael's Mount in Cornwall, where spring comes early, and presents archive items including searches for ancient orchards and Britain's largest land mammal.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts visit Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire, where items include a Victorian dog collar, early royal relics and a painting of a Second World War battle. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.
9.00 The Village. New series. Epic drama charting life in an English village across 100 years as seen through the eyes of one resident living from boyhood to old age.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Aston Villa v Liverpool.
11.15 Regional Programme. 11.45 Film: House of Sand and Fog. (2003) 1.45 Weatherview. 1.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.05 Film: Journey into Fear. (1943) 7.15 Film: One of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing. (1975) 8.45 Gardeners' World. (R) 9.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) 12.00 Great British Menu. (R) 1.00 Great British Menu. (R) 2.00 EastEnders. (R) 3.55 Secrets of Our Living Planet. (R) 4.55 Film: Galaxy Quest. (1999) 6.30
Ever Decreasing Circles. Martin's cricket team is a man short. (R)
7.00 All About The Good Life. The story of the 1970s sitcom about a couple who opted out of the rat race and turned their suburban back garden into a smallholding. (R)
8.00 Donald Campbell: Speed King. Profile of the man who set eight world speed records on water and land in the 1950s and 1960s, using rare archive footage and first-hand testimonies of those who knew him. (R)
9.00 Toughest Place to Be a Bus Driver - The Return. London bus driver Josh West goes back to the chaotic streets of Manila in the Philippines, where he spent a fortnight learning to drive a "jeepney" two years ago.
10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Law and Order. A selection from the show's archives on the theme of law and order.
10.30 It's Kevin. An attempt is made to change the course of history.
11.00 Film: Enigma. (2001) 12.50 Sign Zone: A Very British Wedding. (R) 1.50 Holby City. (R) 2.50 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Film: Barnyard. (2006) Animated comedy with the voice of Kevin James. 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.45 The Simpsons. (R) 1.15 The Simpsons. (R) 1.45 Film: True Grit. (1969) Western, starring John Wayne. 4.15 Deal or No Deal. 5.20 Channel 4 News. 5.45 4thought.tv. 5.50 Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader. (2010) Premiere. Fantasy adventure, with Georgie Henley. 8.00
Easter Eggs Live. In the first of two hour-long editions over the Easter weekend, Mark Evans follows the hatchlings of a variety of creatures the programme has been following for the past week.
9.00 Labyrinth. Conclusion. Ancient and modern-day conspiracies are unearthed revolving around three hidden books that hold the secret of the Holy Grail.
11.05 Film: 28 Weeks Later. (2007) Britain is repopulated after a virus that turns everyone into bloodthirsty killers dies out, only for the infection to return. Horror sequel, with Robert Carlyle and Rose Byrne.
12.55 Film: The Pool. (2007) Premiere. Drama, starring Venkatesh Chavan. 2.30 Southland. Police drama, starring Benjamin McKenzie. (R) 3.10 Come Dine with Me. Dinner party challenge from Wakefield. (R) 4.05 Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) 5.00 Diana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Film: Barnyard. (2006) Animated comedy with the voice of Kevin James. 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.45 The Simpsons. (R) 1.15 The Simpsons. (R) 1.45 Film: True Grit. (1969) Western, starring John Wayne. 4.15 Deal or No Deal. 5.20 Channel 4 News. 5.45 4thought.tv. 5.50 Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader. (2010) Premiere. Fantasy adventure, with Georgie Henley. 8.00
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CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Mio Mao. (R) 6.10 Fifi and the Flowerpots. (R) 6.20 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 6.25 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.40 Olive the Ostrich. (R) 6.45 Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) 6.55 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.00 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.15 Animal Antics. (R) 7.20 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.30 Little Princess. (R) 7.45 Thomas & Friends. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus. 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.45 Jelly Jam. (R) 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai. (R) 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.00 Film: Tinker Bell. (2008) 1.30 Film: The Goonies. (1985) 3.40 Film: Miss Congeniality. (2000) 5.50 5 News Weekend. 5.55 Film: Wild Wild West. (1999) 7.55
Film: Ghost Rider. (2007) A curse turns a motorcycle stuntman into a demonic skeletal biker who must take evil souls to Hell. Fantasy thriller based on the comic-book, starring Nicolas Cage and Eva Mendes.
10.00 Person of Interest. Reese is reminded of his final mission for the CIA when an undercover assignment to protect a security guard takes an unexpected turn.
10.55 Film: SWAT. (2003) A disgraced cop redeems himself by joining an elite unit charged with guarding a notorious prisoner. Action thriller, with Samuel L. Jackson.
1.10 SuperCasino. 4.00 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.00 Diana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK 8.35 Film: Shrek Forever After (2010) 10.00 In the Flesh 11.00 Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Film: The Road: A Story of Life and Death (2012) 8.15 Top of the Pops: The Story of 1978 9.05 Motor Racing at the BBC: That Petrol Emotion 9.35 Michael Jackson: Bad 25 11.45 Nile Rodgers: The Hitmaker
ITV2
3.45 You've Been Framed! Calendar Special 4.45 You've Been Framed! Kids 5.30 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 7.40 Film: Back to the Future Part III (1990) 10.00 Only Way is Essex 10.50 Big Rich Texas 11.50 Celebrity Juice: The Big Reunion Special
ITV3
2.25 Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1987) 4.15 Film: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) 6.05 Film: The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) 8.00 Film: Intolerable Cruelty (2003) 10.00 A Touch of Frost
ITV4
10.45 Live British Touring Car Championship 6.00 The Professionals 7.00 World of Sport: 1970s 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 An Audience with Billy Connolly 10.10 Film: Born to Raise Hell (2010) E4
4.00 Revenge 5.00 New Girl 5.30 The Mindy Project 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Film: Grease (1978) 9.15 Film: Blade: Trinity (2004) 11.30 The Body Shocking Show
Film4
3.20 Big Business (1988) 5.15 Arietty (2010) 7.10 City of Ember (2008) 9.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) 11.00 The Girl Who Played with Fire (2009)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

A Bunch of Amateurs, BBC2, 10pm

A washed-up Hollywood star is delighted when his agent arranges for him to play King Lear, only to be horrified to learn he has been signed up for an English amateur dramatics group's charity production. Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds and Samantha Bond. (2008)

Executive Decision, Channel 5, 10pm

Terrorists armed with the world's most lethal nerve gas take over an airliner and demand a massive ransom – and only a crack team of intelligence experts can stop them before they carry out their threat to destroy Washington, DC. Action thriller, starring Kurt Russell, Steven Seagal, Halle Berry and John Leguizamo. (1996)

TUESDAY

Polltergeist, BBC1, 12.20am

A family experiences strange events after invisible phantoms invade their home. At first the ghosts seem harmless, simply making things move by themselves. But before long, they spirit away the five-year-old daughter to their own plane of existence, forcing her parents to call on paranormal researchers to find their missing child. Horror, with JoBeth Williams. (1982)



Insomnia, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY

Insomnia, BBC1, 11.05pm

A detective is sent to Alaska to investigate a murder during a month when the sun does not set. Sleep deprivation starts to take its toll, and he accidentally shoots his partner dead. He tries to cover it up, but the criminal they were hunting has seen everything and blackmails the cop into helping him escape justice. Thriller directed by Christopher Nolan, starring Al Pacino, Robin Williams and Hilary Swank. (2002)

THURSDAY

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou, BBC1, 11.30pm

An eccentric marine expert sets out in search of a legendary shark that ate his old friend and shipmate. Unfortunately the voyage is riddled with problems, including a man claiming to be his long-lost son, a pursuing pirate crew and a rival oceanographer. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, starring Bill Murray. (2004)

FRIDAY

King Kong, ITV, 10.35pm

A maverick film-maker and his cast and crew board a ship bound for a mysterious island – but when they arrive, a giant gorilla carries off their leading lady. As the crew makes its way through the teeming jungle to find her, the director concocts a dangerous scheme to capture the great ape and take it back to New York. Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, starring Naomi Watts and Jack Black. (2005)

Pick of the Week

No cause for celebration for the returning Doctor

If you're a Doctor Who fan, 2013 is going to be a very big year indeed.

November 23rd marks the 50th anniversary of the science fiction show, and the Beeb is pulling out all the stops to celebrate it.

In the past, such events have been marked by special editions featuring previous actors to have played the Doctor, but show-runner Steven Moffat is giving away as little information this time around as he can get away with.

Instead, he explains it's in 3D (which we already knew anyway) and is going to be bigger and better than ever before. Frankly, if he'd said anything but that, we'd think he'd lost his marbles – OF COURSE it's going to be amazing. But no matter how much we beg, Moffat won't budge: what he will talk about (a bit anyway) are the new episodes heading our way.

We're about to see the second half of season seven, which began last autumn when Amy and Rory were still aboard the Tardis; seems a long time ago, doesn't it?

They're now gone and the Doctor has been moping about the universe, although he did stop off in Victorian London to meet Clara, a fast-talking quick-witted young woman who seemed to die at the end of the Christmas special. But did she?

Apparently not, because here she is, large as life again and living in modern-day London.

In this week's episode, she helps the Time Lord defeat wi-fi-dwelling villains who steal people's souls. He then thinks she'd make the perfect companion, but she isn't so sure. Obviously he twists her arm because she's played by Jenna-Louise Colman, who we've already been told will be a regular in the series.

Moffat was instrumental in casting Colman, and he's pleased he did: "I think she fits in perfectly, brings a whole new side to Matt to the fore, and she's sort of charming, flirtatious, lovely, and is discovering all those things about Doctor Who for the first time that we all know and making them therefore brand new."

"She's also, I think, a genuine star."

But what else can we expect to see over the coming weeks?

"We've got returning monsters, we've got the Warriors and the Cybermen coming and some zombies creatures as well," says Moffat. "We've got all of that and we've got a huge range of settings - we've got under the sea, we've got a fantastic alien planet, an adventure actually on the rings of the planet."

"We've got Victorian Yorkshire, which I think anyone wants to see. And the Doctor's biggest secret, revealed for real. We're not kidding, we are actually going to do it, we're going to reveal his biggest secret."

Hmmm... at last, a revelation of sorts - can't wait for that. But what can it be? The Doctor's real name? What happened to his long-lost granddaughter Susan, abandoned in London in 2150AD?

Knowing Moffat, it's all just a tease. But we'll be gripped, like the rest of the nation, desperate to find out what happens next in the Doctor's amazing adventures in space and time...



Matt Smith stars in Doctor Who, Saturday, BBC1, 6.15pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Coronation Street

ITV, 7.30pm

We used to have Karl pegged as a feckless waster – not a man you'd want to rely on, but not actively dangerous. However, by setting fire to The Rovers and leaving Sunita to die there, he's moved up into the soap villain division. To make matters worse, Stella is still under the impression he's actually a hero as she's discharged from hospital, and insists he's welcome to stay at Number 13 with her. And with the doctor warning Dev that they might have to switch off Sunita's life-support machine, it looks like no one is going to be able to expose Karl for the deluded arsonist he is.

Jonathan Creek: 'The Clue of the Savant's Thumb'

BBC1, 8.30pm

Before Jonathan Creek came along, most people thought Alan Davies was just another young comedian. But thanks to his performance in David Renwick's hit series about a crime-solving magician's creative consultant, that all changed. Creek became hugely popular, and fans are always desperate for a new run. One isn't forthcoming, so they'll have to make do with this new one-off – and mightily fine it is too. Subtitled The Clue of the Savant's Thumb, it reveals what happens when Creek and fellow investigator Joey Ross become involved in a complex case at a girls' boarding school involving a secret society and what appears to be supernatural events. Sheridan Smith returns as Joey, while Rik Mayall, Joanna Lumley and Nigel Planer guest star.

TUESDAY

The Great British Sewing Bee

BBC2, 8pm

Whether it's the current economic climate encouraging us to make do and mend, the vogue for all things vintage, or the fact that you can do it while watching the telly, sewing has been making something of a comeback. In fact, it's so popular, the brains behind the Great British Bake-Off have decided to base a new series around it. Presented by Claudia Winkleman, it sees eight needlepersons competing to be named Britain's best amateur sewer. In the Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood roles will be May Martin from the WI and Savile Row tailor Patrick Grant – expect 'puckering seam lines' to become the new soggy bottoms.

WEDNESDAY

Hillsborough: Never Forgotten

BBC2, 9pm

Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough Stadium will always be known as the place at which 94 Liverpool supporters died on April 15, 1989, while attending an FA Cup semi-final match between their team and Nottingham Forest – two more fans died later. This documentary is being broadcast to mark the first anniversary of the Hillsborough Disaster since the Hillsborough Independent Review published its findings. It's a poignant and thought-provoking film in which survivors, relatives of the

deceased and those who tended to the victims on the day describe how, for over 20 years, they or their loved ones were blamed for what happened until the Bishop of Liverpool, leader of the team that uncovered the truth, revealed what really happened.

Scott & Bailey

ITV, 9pm

The north west's answer to Cagney and Lacey have returned for a new series that once again finds them juggling their complicated personal lives with their demanding jobs. However, some viewers may initially find it slightly difficult to sympathise with DC Rachel Bailey (Suranne Jones) who in the months since

we last saw her has married handsome fellow copper Sean (Sean Maguire). He's devoted to her, mood swings and all – so why is Rachel already feeling like she's made a huge mistake? At least DC Janet Scott (Lesley Sharp) is going to get a big distraction from her complicated love life.

THURSDAY

The Intern

Channel 4, 9pm

Ex-Dragons' Den star Hilary Devey hosts this new series in which talented and ambitious

candidates are given a leg up the ladder in their chosen career by giving them the chance to win an internship with some of the UK's most exciting employers. Despite being hungry for success, the candidates do not have the qualifications the companies involved would usually look for so, instead, they will be confronted by a series of challenges to find out how they cope in a certain environment. First up, three young people attempt to impress a hotel group by dealing with a celebrity caught in a compromising position.

FRIDAY

How to Win the Grand National

Channel 4, 8pm

For some people, Grand National weekend is the only time of year they set foot in the bookies. However, the reality is that not just any old nag can conquer those four-and-a-half miles and 30 fences. To even take part requires dedication and bravery, and to be first past the post – well, that takes a little something extra. Mark Evans sets out to find out just what qualities make up a winner.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Karren Brady

ITV, 9pm

For people outside football, Karren Brady is probably best known for her appearances on The Apprentice. However, if that's all you know of her, this programme, the final episode of the series, is going to be an education. It charts Brady's spells as managing director of Birmingham City FC and as vice-chairman of West Ham United, as well as her TV career, marriage, motherhood and the time she was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm.

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Wordsley, Nr. Stourbridge
Tel: 01384 288722

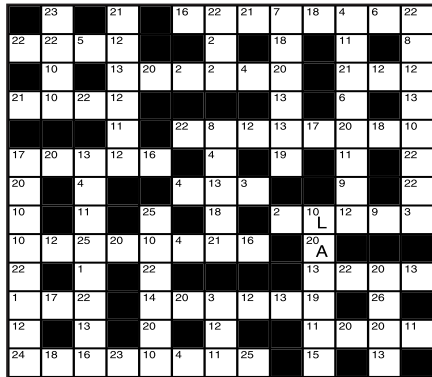
What's On!

Brain Gym

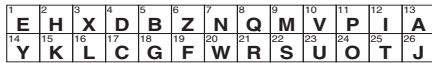
No.214

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

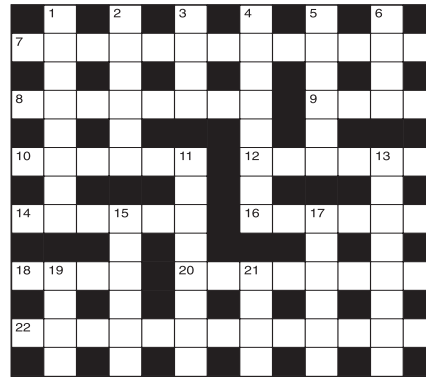
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Practise putting on a glove? (3,4,4,2)
8. Such lovers may make maids err! (6)
9. Water thoroughly (4)
10. Sailor despatched and not here (6)
12. Emphasise, in a manner of speaking (6)
14. An occasion when spirits are called for (6)
16. I am after it in brown or reddish-yellow (6)
18. Country in which hope runs high (4)
20. Goes without saying (8)
22. He digs into the past (13)

Down

1. A bleared version probably isn't (8)
2. God that is around for curing purposes (6)
3. Grant out of misplaced enthusiasm (4)
4. All those required for a full board meeting (5,3)
5. Result of a questionable action? (6)
6. What every shopkeeper needs to cultivate? (4)
11. He hasn't yet made a score (8)
13. Hit and run in off-hand fashion (4-4)
15. Round figure? (6)
17. A depressing feature for meteorologists (6)
19. Clearly it includes him! (4)
21. Just one fish (4)



Quick Clues:

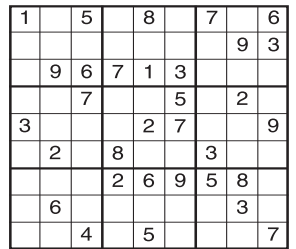
Across

7. Exaggeration (13)
8. Sham (8)
9. Relieve (4)
10. Afternoon nap (6)
12. Avaricious (6)
14. Babe (6)
16. Modest (6)
18. Conspire (4)
20. Sail a ship (8)
22. Thought (13)

Down

1. Dislike (8)
2. Free (6)
3. Daze (4)
4. Power (8)
5. Hinder (6)
6. Burden (4)
11. Self-government (8)
13. Swelling (8)
15. Shrewd (6)
17. Powerful (6)
19. Plunder (4)
21. Wicked (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	6	8	1	7	3	2	9	4
1	4	3	9	2	5	6	7	8
2	7	9	6	4	8	1	3	5
3	9	6	7	1	8	4	5	2
4	8	1	9	2	5	7	3	6
7	5	2	4	3	6	1	8	9
8	2	5	3	6	7	9	4	1
9	3	7	5	4	1	6	2	8
6	1	4	2	8	9	3	7	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Epee; 8 Cradle song; 9 Schooner; 10 Arcs; 12 Scotch; 14 Mishap; 15 Colour; 17 Benign; 18 Asti; 19 Amenable; 21 Tree-doctor; 22 Edge. Down: 2 Precocious; 3 Echo; 4 Launch; 5 Alarum; 6 Assassin; 7 Ages; 11 Changeling; 13 Two-timer; 16 Reason; 17 Breath; 18 Ants; 20 Acre. QUICK - Across: 1 Trip; 8 Abominable; 9 Spirited; 10 Exit; 12 Scarce; 14 Exempt; 15 Linger; 17 Custom; 18 Tell; 19 Calendar; 21 Distribute; 22 Deep. Down: 2 Respective; 3 Pair; 4 Bottle; 5 Middle; 6 Careless; 7 Sent; 11 Improbable; 13 Regulate; 16 Recoil; 17 Colour; 18 Tidy; 20 Need.



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star★extraTRAVEL London Theatre Breaks



Choose your show, price band and how you want to travel*

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days



Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £129.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £139.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.



Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £139.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.



Theatre Showstopper from £189.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend from £189.⁹⁵

These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.



*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
Single room supplements apply.

Arranged by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

For a theatre brochure please call (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm),
or go to expressandstar.com/starextratavel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Home of Property

Your top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster, Stourbridge

An extended house now includes five bedrooms

AN extended five-bedroom semi-detached house in Packwood Road, Tividale, Oldbury, is on the market priced at £199,950.

Occupying a cul-de-sac position, the house briefly comprises of entrance hall, dining area, lounge (formerly the garage), ground floor cloakroom, further living room, kitchen and conservatory, on the first floor family bathroom/WC, en-suite and five bedrooms.

The ground floor comprises of an extended entrance hallway with access to all rooms, including the dining area which leads to the cloakroom/WC.

The kitchen, 12ft 5in by 9ft 9in, has a range of wall and base units, integrated oven and gas hob and opening to the conservatory which is 12ft 10in by 7ft 4in.

On the first floor the master bedroom has French doors overlooking the rear garden with a door to the en-suite with shower cubicle, hand basin and WC.

there are four further bedrooms and a family bathroom and WC.

Outside to the front is a driveway providing off road parking for a number of vehicles, and to the rear the garden is laid to lawn.

Contact Your Move on 01384 455000 for more details.



This property in Packwood Road, Tividale, Oldbury, is on the market for £199,950

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**STOURTON
WATERSIDE COTTAGE**



- Detached Cottage with character
- Main lounge with dining area
- 2 bedrooms (EPC - E)

£775 PCM

**TETTENHALL
7 LIMES ROAD**



- Traditional 2 bed mid terrace
- Breakfast kitchen with appliances
- Rear garden with patio area (EPC - D)

£745 PCM

**CLAVERLEY
10 DANESBROOK**



- 3 bedroom semi detached house
- Separate lounge and dining room
- Recently decorated (EPC - E)

£680 PCM

**PEDMORE
11 PEDMORE MEWS**



- First floor apartment
- 2 bedrooms master with ensuite
- Secure parking (EPC - C)

£650 PCM

**HAGLEY
5 NEWLANDS CLOSE**



- Second floor 2 bed apartment
- Spacious lounge with kitchen recess
- Good location for commuting (EPC - D)

£595 PCM

**OLDSWINFORD
30 HEATH LANE**



- Traditional mid Terrace
- Close to Stourbridge Junction
- 2 bedrooms (EPC - E)

£475 PCM

**AMBLECOTE
95 BRETTLE LANE**



- Modern ground floor flat
- 1 double bedroom
- Allocated parking (EPC - D)

£425 PCM

**WOLLASTON
50A BRIDGENORTH ROAD**



- First floor flat
- 2 good size bedrooms
- Village location (EPC - E)

£395 PCM

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www.bakersproperty.co.uk

UPPER GORNAL EVE LANE



- ★ Semi-detached
- ★ Hall ★ Lounge/diner
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ Utility ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom ★ Garage
- ★ Gas c/htg
- ★ Double glazed
- ★ Open rear outlook
- ★ Immaculate throughout
- ★ Energy Rating D

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

GORNAL SANDSTONE CLOSE



- ★ Detached
- ★ 4 years old
- ★ Individual design
- ★ Hall ★ Lounge
- ★ Luxury dining kitchen
- ★ Conservatory ★ Cloakroom
- ★ Three bedrooms ★ Bathroom
- ★ Garage ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Double glazed
- ★ Energy Rating C

OFFERS BASED ON £175,000

LANESFIELD BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD



- ★ Individual Design Luxury Detached
- ★ Standing on a Large Landscaped Plot with vehicular access from Lane Road
- ★ Immaculate accommodation comprises
- ★ Porch, Reception Hall
- ★ Lounge, Dining Room
- ★ Study, Fully Fitted Kitchen
- ★ Games/Utility Room Off
- ★ Gardens, Gallery Landing
- ★ Four Bedrooms, Bathroom ★ Gas C/HTG
- ★ Double Glazed, Large Landscaped Gardens, Immaculate Throughout

OFFERS BASED ON £285,000

GORNAL WOOD BRICK KILN LANE



- ★ Individual Detached
- ★ Need of updating
- ★ Hall ★ Lounge
- ★ Dining Room
- ★ Breakfast Kitchen
- ★ 3 Bedrooms ★ Bathroom
- ★ Garage ★ Carport
- ★ Private Gardens
- ★ Energy Rating E

OFFERS BASED ON £210,000

GORNAL PARKHOUSE GARDENS



- ★ Bungalow
- ★ New development
- ★ High specification
- ★ Lounge ★ Fitted Kitchen
- ★ One bedroom ★ Bathroom
- ★ Gardens ★ Gas c/htg
- ★ Double glazed
- ★ Secure parking
- ★ 10 yr NHBC guarantee

£99,950

SEDGLEY TURLS HILL ROAD



- ★ Semi-detached
- ★ Immaculate throughout
- ★ Sought after location
- ★ Hall ★ Lounge
- ★ Formal dining room
- ★ Conservatory
- ★ Fitted kitchen ★ Utility
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Gas c/htg ★ Double glazed
- ★ Landscaped gardens

OFFERS BASED ON £165,000

GORNAL REDHALL ROAD



- ★ Maisonette
- ★ Purpose built
- ★ First floor
- ★ Lounge ★ One bedroom
- ★ Kitchen ★ Bathroom
- ★ Rear parking
- ★ Energy Rating E

OFFERS BASED ON £72,500

GORNAL LAKE STREET



- ★ Semi-detached
- ★ Good size plot
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Sitting room
- ★ Dining room
- ★ Fitted Kitchen
- ★ 3 Bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Side parking & rear vehicular access
- ★ Gardens
- ★ Energy Rating D

OFFERS BASED ON £139,500

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GORNAL NEW STREET



- ★ End Terraced
- ★ Fully Refurbished
- ★ Fitted Kitchen
- ★ Formal Dining Area Off
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Private Garden
- ★ Gas C/Heating
- ★ Double Glazed
- ★ Immaculate Throughout
- ★ Energy Rating D

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950

GORNAL BIRD STREET



- ★ Mid terraced
- ★ Fully refurbished
- ★ Lounge ★ Dining room
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Gas c/heating
- ★ Double glazed
- ★ Private garden
- ★ Immaculate throughout
- ★ Energy Rating D

OFFERS BASED ON £109,950

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- REDUCED**
- 196 TURLS HILL ROAD £235,000**
- COSELEY**
- Attractive detached cottage with four bedrooms
 - Deceptively spacious and improved accommodation
 - Ensuite shower room off bedroom two
 - Open views to the front over conservation area
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 55 CHARLECOTE DRIVE**
- DUDLEY**
- We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £215,500. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.



- 47 RICHBOROUGH DRIVE £205,000**
- DUDLEY**
- Extended modern detached house
 - Conservatory, utility room, ensuite shower room
 - Deceptively good sized four bedroom accommodation
 - Pleasant position at the end of a private drive
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 16 NEW ROWLEY ROAD £196,995**
- DUDLEY**
- Extended semi detached house
 - Four bedrooms with ensuite shower room
 - Improved deceptive accommodation
 - Double glazing & gas central heating
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 62A ROBERT STREET £195,000**
- LOWER GORNAL**
- Detached house
 - Three double bedrooms
 - Ensuite shower room, utility room
 - Delightful open outlook at rear
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 31 GOSPEL END ROAD £184,950**
- SEDGLEY**
- Detached bungalow
 - Two bedrooms
 - Level low maintenance rear garden
 - Well proportioned accommodation
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 29 DUMBLEBERRY AVENUE £175,000**
- SEDGLEY**
- Extended semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - L' shaped bedroom with shower area
 - Conservatory
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 25 GREENACRE ROAD O/A £169,950**
- TIPTON**
- Semi detached house with three bedrooms
 - Well maintained & improved
 - Converted garage
 - Attractive rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 1 GOUGH ROAD £169,950**
- COSELEY**
- Modern three bedroom detached house
 - Extended & improved
 - Conservatory, utility room
 - Slabbed gated area for caravan/boat at side
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 3 OAKHAM AVENUE O/A £158,950**
- DUDLEY**
- Traditional semi detached house
 - Four bedrooms
 - Extended kitchen & bathroom
 - In need of certain cosmetic works
 - Pleasantly heated & double glazed
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING F



- 7 GLENFERN ROAD O/A £149,950**
- COSELEY**
- Enlarged 3 bedroom detached house
 - Separate lounge & dining room
 - Gas central heating & double glazing
 - South facing rear garden
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 5 EDGEWORTH CLOSE O/A £149,950**
- WILLENHALL**
- Modern detached five bedroom house
 - Spacious & extended accommodation
 - In need of general updating
 - Two bathrooms, two kitchens
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING E



- 9 DALWOOD CLOSE O/A £139,950**
- COSELEY**
- Semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Extended rear lounge & kitchen
 - Majority gas central heating
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C



- 84 EVE LANE £132,950**
- UPPER GORNAL**
- Upper gornal semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Considerably improved accommodation
 - Gas central heating & double glazing
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING E



- 29 HURST ROAD £119,950**
- COSELEY**
- Extended semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Downstairs wet room
 - Deceptive accommodation
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 404 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD EAST £119,950**
- WOLVERHAMPTON**
- Semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Upgrading works required
 - Garage at rear
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE



- 33 KINGS ROAD £118,950**
- SEDGLEY**
- Considerably improved mid terraced house
 - Two bedrooms
 - Well presented accommodation
 - Gas centrally heated & double glazed
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 3 JESSON ROAD £114,950**
- WOODSETTON**
- Three bedroom house
 - Extended accommodation
 - Kitchen with breakfast area
 - Two reception rooms
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 81 HORACE STREET O/A £104,950**
- COSELEY**
- Modern end terraced house
 - Two bedrooms
 - Conservatory
 - Ample off street parking
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 540A BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD £94,950**
- COSELEY**
- Semi detached house
 - Three bedrooms
 - Deceptive accommodation
 - Double glazing & gas central heating
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING D



- 12 BUFFERY ROAD £84,995**
- DUDLEY**
- End terraced house
 - Two bedrooms
 - Double glazing & gas central heating
 - L' shaped lounge
 - SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING E

Sedgley Office
01902 885894

Dudley Office
01384 459999

wakeman-online.com

Sedgley

SKITTS

ESTATE AGENTS

01902 686868

sedgley@skitts.net**TENNYSON ROAD
THE STRAITS**

- Detached bungalow situated on a prominent corner position
- Spacious accommodation • Extensive garden to the front, side and rear
- Three bedrooms • Living room, fitted dining kitchen • Central heating
- Double glazing • Off road parking, 27ft Garage • Delightful location

INTERIOR VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED Energy Rating: TBC

£225,000**VANBOROUGH WALK
DUDLEY**

- Well maintained semi-detached home with three good size bedrooms
- Lounge, dining room, conservatory • Central heating, double glazing
- Off road parking, integral garage • Private rear garden

Spacious accommodation • Quietly positioned Energy Rating: TBC

£139,950**SUTTON COURT
ETTINGSHALL PARK**

- Ground floor flat on private development • Bedroom, lounge, kitchen
- Bathroom, WC • Heating, double glazing • Parking • Popular location
- No upward chain • Ideal investment or first time buy Energy Rating: D

£54,950**FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 01902 686868****LANGLEY AVENUE
COESELLEY**

- Delightful detached home • Three bedrooms • 'U' Shaped lounge
- Dining room • Fully fitted dining kitchen plus laundry • Downstairs WC
- Central heating, double glazing • Off road parking plus garage

Interior viewing HIGHLY recommended Energy Rating: D

£148,000**OLD PARK ROAD
DUDLEY**

- EXTENDED Semi-detached • Spacious home with three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms • 17ft Kitchen • Central heating, double glazing
- Pleasant rear garden • Off road parking • No upward chain

Energy Rating: TBC

£127,500**EVE LANE
UPPER GORNAL**

- Semi-detached family home • Three bedrooms
- Spacious lounge and dining area • Central heating
- Double glazing • Garage • Pleasant rear garden

FANTASTIC OPEN VIEWS TO THE REAR Energy Rating: TBC

£129,950**PADARN CLOSE
NORTHWAY**

- Spacious and homelike • Three bedrooms • Lounge, dining kitchen
- Downstairs cloak • Central heating, double glazing
- Double glazing • Garage • Pleasant rear garden

Popular location Energy Rating: D

£125,000**OLD PARK ROAD
DUDLEY**

- Semi-detached with three bedrooms • Two reception rooms
- Kitchen plus veranda • Heating, double glazing • Off road parking
- Conveniently positioned • Requiring some modernisation works

Energy Rating: TBC

£114,950**MULBERRY GREEN
GREENS ESTATE**

- Semi-detached family home with three bedrooms • 18ft Living room
- Double glazed conservatory • Dining kitchen • Central heating
- Double glazing • No upward chain • Spacious accommodation

Energy Rating: TBC

£94,950**HILL STREET
UPPER GORNAL**

- Well presented ground floor flat • Bedroom, lounge, kitchen
- 17ft Living room, kitchen, shower room, rear garden • Central heating
- Viewing recommended • Ideal first time buy Energy Rating: TBC

£75,950**LISTER ROAD
DUDLEY**

- Two bedroom first floor flat with private access • Spacious home
- 17ft Living room, kitchen, shower room, rear garden • Central heating
- Double glazing • No upward chain • Ideal first time buy

Energy Rating: C

£74,995**BRICK KILN LANE
GORNAL WOOD**

- Detached family residence in popular location • Three double bedrooms
- Spacious dining kitchen • Useful downstairs WC off spacious entrance hall
- Modern shower room • 22ft Integral garage • No upward chain

Energy Rating: E

Reduced to £239,940**THE ALLEY
LOWER GORNAL**

- A delightful detached cottage • Refurbished to a good standard
- FANTASTIC POSITION • VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- Two bedrooms • Living room with Gas fire • Fuel burner

Fitted kitchen • Downstairs Cloak • Ample off road parking

Energy Rating: D

£229,950**BOSWORTH CLOSE
WOODSETON**

- Detached residence • Extremely well presented
- FOUR Bedrooms • 21ft Living room • Ground floor cloak
- Central heating • Double glazing • Garage • Off road parking

Popular location Energy Rating: TBC

£225,000**LONGFELLOW ROAD
THE STRAITS**

- Spacious detached dormer bungalow • Four bedrooms
- Lounge plus dining area • Kitchen with conservatory off
- Shower room • Off road parking plus garage • Central heating

Double glazing • Popular location • NO UPWARD CHAIN

Energy Rating: D

£189,950**HIMLEY AVENUE
DUDLEY**

- Semi-detached family home • Three bedrooms
- Lounge, dining room, study • Kitchen plus utility
- Off road parking • Central heating • Double glazing

A well presented home • VIEWING RECOMMENDED Energy Rating: C

Offers Around £149,950**QUEENS ROAD
SEDGLEY**

- Semi-detached family home • Three bedrooms
- Lounge with bay window • Dining room • Kitchen
- Spacious bathroom • Central heating and double glazing

Popular location • NO UPWARD CHAIN Energy Rating: E

£145,000**ZOAR STREET
LOWER GORNAL**

- A well presented and terraced home • Fantastic accommodation
- Three double bedrooms • Two reception rooms • Dining kitchen
- Spacious bathroom • Downstairs cloak • Central heating

Double glazing • Potential garage space (S.12P) • Spacious home

Energy Rating: D

£139,950**LAUREL ROAD
DUDLEY**

- Spacious semi-detached • Three bedrooms • Lounge plus dining area
- Double glazed conservatory • Downstairs WC
- Central heating, double glazing • Rear garden

Off road parking • Ideal first time buy Energy Rating: D

£106,500**TURNERS HILL ROAD
LOWER GORNAL**

- Spacious semi-detached home • Three bedrooms
- 21ft Living room • Dining kitchen • Heating and double glazing
- Useful work shop with WC • Off road parking Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £107,950**SCHOOL STREET
SEDGLEY**

- Spacious two bedroom semi-detached • Lounge plus dining room
- Kitchen plus utility • Central heating • Convenient location
- First floor bathroom • Good size rear garden Energy Rating: F

Reduced to £99,950**CROSS LANE**

- Corner position • Semi-detached family home
- Three bedrooms • Lounge diner • Central heating
- Double glazing • Off road parking • Spacious accommodation

Reduced to £110,995**THE RIDGEWAY**

- Spacious end-terrace • Two bedrooms • Two reception rooms
- Lounge, dining room, study • Kitchen plus utility
- Down stairs WC • Central heating, double glazing • Off road parking

Conveniently positioned Energy Rating: D

Reduced to £109,995**VALLEY ROAD**

- Semi-detached home • Three bedrooms • Lounge
- Dining kitchen • Downstairs cloak • Central heating
- Double glazing • Off road parking • Popular location Energy Rating: D

£104,950**ETTINGSHALL PARK FARM LANE**

- Link-detached family home • Three/Four bedrooms
- Lounge, dining room • Central heating • Double glazing
- Secluded position • MUST BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED

Offers Over £149,950**FARRINGTON ROAD**

- Three bedroom semi-detached • Two reception rooms
- Kitchen with WC off • Integral garage • Central heating
- Double glazing • Good size rear garden • Popular location

Reduced to £143,500**DONNINGTON COURT**

- Spacious ground floor apartment
- Well presented home, 20ft Living room
- Central heating, double glazing • Ideal first time buy

Popular location • Spacious accommodation

No upward chain

£89,950**VALLEY ROAD**

- Extended semi-detached • Spacious family home
- Three double bedrooms • Lounge plus dining room
- Dining kitchen • Spacious bathroom • Off road parking

Central heating • Double glazing • MUST BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED

Reduced to £111,950**IVYHOUSE LANE**

- Spacious semi-detached home • Two bedrooms
- Two reception rooms • Conservatory
- Kitchen plus laundry • Stylish bathroom • Central heating

Double glazing • Garage • A well presented home

£119,950**SUTTON COURT**

- Ground floor flat • One bedroom • Heating and double glazing
- Garage • Good condition

Reduced to £59,800Find out how much
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NEW

3 BEDROOMS

Wrens Nest Road, DUDLEY



Offers Around £99,950

- PRICED TO SELL
- Remainder of NHBC warranty
- Three bedroom mid terraced house
- SECURE PARKING BEHIND ELECTRONIC GATES
- Ideal starter home or buy-to-let



NEW

3 BEDROOMS

Selborne Road, DUDLEY



Offers Over £140,000

- Three storey end Townhouse
- Three double bedrooms
- Bathroom/en-suite and separate W.C.
- Views over Buffery Park
- EPC=B



NEW

3 BEDROOMS

Upper Church Lane, TIPTON



Offers Around £94,995

- Three bedroom semi-detached
- Two reception rooms, Conservatory
- Double driveway, garden
- No Chain, ready to move into
- EPC=C



NEW

2 BEDROOMS

Ketley Hill Road, Russells Hall, DUDLEY



£100,000

- YOU'VE GOT TO VIEW IT
- Well presented semi-detached house
- Two double bedrooms
- Through lounge/dining room
- Modern kitchen and bathroom
- EPC=D



NEW

2 BEDROOMS

Geston Road, Russells Hall, DUDLEY



Offers Around £109,950

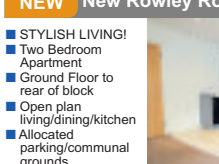
- Extended semi-detached house
- THREE reception rooms
- Conservatory, extended kitchen
- Two double fully fitted bedrooms
- driveway for two cars, EPC=G



NEW Junction Street, DUDLEY

2 BEDROOMS

NEW Junction Street, DUDLEY



£66,950

- In need of some cosmetic updating
- Two reception rooms
- Two Bedrooms
- Galley kitchen, Bathroom
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC=E



NEW Crescent Road, DUDLEY

2 BEDROOMS

NEW Crescent Road, DUDLEY



£79,995

- Traditional Mid-Terraced
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen and Bathroom
- In need of some updating
- EPC = E



NEW Redhall Road, GORNAL

3 BEDROOMS



£84,950

- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- THREE Bedroom mid terraced
- TWO reception rooms
- Long garden with fabulous views
- EPC=E



NEW New Rowley Road, DUDLEY

2 BEDROOMS



£99,950

- STYLISH LIVING!
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor to rear of block
- Open plan living/dining/kitchen
- Allocated parking/communal grounds
- NO UPWARD CHAIN/ EPC=C



NEW Westfield Road, DUDLEY

3 BEDROOMS



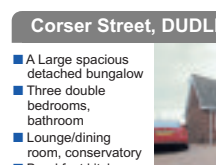
£119,950

- Traditional semi-detached house
- Three bedrooms, bathroom
- Two receptions, extended kitchen
- Sun room, workshop, tandem garage
- NO UPWARD CHAIN, EPC=G



NEW PRICE Newick Street, NETHERTON

3 BEDROOMS



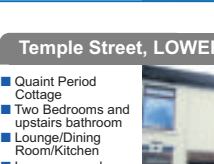
£164,950

- Spacious Detached House
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Large through lounge/dining room
- Extended L-shaped kitchen
- 3 car driveway
- EPC = D, Reduced by £5,000



NEW PRICE St James's Road, DUDLEY

4 BEDROOMS



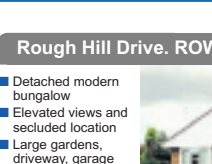
£195,000

- A grand Period semi-detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- AWARD WINNING GARDENS
- Driveway and garage
- NO UPWARD CHAIN, EPC=E
- REDUCED BY



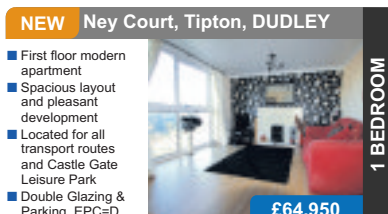
NEW PRICE Southgate Way, DUDLEY

1 BEDROOM



£55,000

- Modern first floor apartment
- Open plan lounge and kitchen
- One bedroom and allocated parking
- Popular location, NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Reduced by £5,000, EPC=C



NEW Ney Court, Tipton, DUDLEY

1 BEDROOM



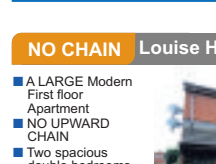
£64,950

- First floor modern apartment
- Spacious layout and pleasant development
- Located for all transport routes and Castle Gate Leisure Park
- Double Glazing & Parking, EPC=D



Corser Street, DUDLEY

3 BEDROOMS



£199,950

- A Large spacious detached bungalow
- Three double bedrooms, bathroom
- Lounge/dining room, conservatory
- Breakfast kitchen, hallway and porch
- Low maintenance gardens, EPC=E



Temple Street, LOWER GORNAL

2 BEDROOMS



£84,950

- Quaint Period Cottage
- Two Bedrooms and upstairs bathroom
- Lounge/Dining Room/Kitchen
- Long rear gardens to rear
- Ideal first time purchase or buy-to-let
- EPC = T.B.C.



Rough Hill Drive, ROWLEY REGIS

2 BEDROOMS



£199,950

- Detached modern bungalow
- Elevated views and secluded location
- Large gardens, driveway, garage
- Two bedrooms, shower room
- Lounge and Conservatory, EPC=D



NEW PRICE Five Ways Court, LOWER GORNAL

2 BEDROOMS



£47,000

- TWO bed 'TOP FLOOR' apartment
- Fabulous views over the Shropshire Hills
- Electric gated development with allocated parking
- 50% shared ownership
- EPC = B



NO CHAIN Louise House, PENSNETT

2 BEDROOMS



£84,950

- A LARGE Modern First floor Apartment
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Two spacious double bedrooms
- Lounge, hallway and dining kitchen
- Parking space, communal gardens, EPC=D

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01384 265265

BEARWOOD

129 Poplar Road
0121 434 4345

SEDGLEY

2A Dudley Street
01902 880888

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

WALL HEATH**Chapel Street**

Very well placed within a sought after, cul-de-sac, within walking distance of village shops/school, this VERY DECEPTIVE LINK-DETACHED MODERN FAMILY HOME offers a GENEROUS and WELL PROPORTIONED layout of WELL PRESENTED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Reception Hall, very large Lounge, Dining Room Area off, fitted Kitchen with appliances, Utility/Laundry Room, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS and modern Bathroom. DRIVEWAY, front garden, LARGE 28' x GARAGE and a sunny rear garden with open aspect backing onto playing field. EPC Rating F. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£199,950**KINGSWINFORD****Stream Park**

A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED, NOW EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS AND THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED, TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is very well placed within the established address, just off Stream Road, offering INCREDIBLY GENEROUS accommodation including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: Reception Hall, spacious large Lounge with ample dining space, separate formal Dining Room, very large refitted Dining Kitchen, Utility Room, Study/Office, FOUR GOOD SIZE BEDROOMS three with En-Suite and classic white House Bathroom. Set back beyond the BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY to the rear and enjoying a GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN with large patio and lawn. EPC Rating C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£177,500**SEDGLEY****St Brides Close, Northway**

Enviably situated in short/quiet cul de sac just off Langland Drive, a superb, conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated (comb boiler) & UPVC double glazed semi detached. Accommodation includes porch, reception hall, store, dining room with bay, lounge with patio doors, kitchen, lobby, separate toilet. Three generous bedrooms, recently upgraded & re-tiled bathroom with white suite, garage, delightful secluded rear garden, extensive parking. EPC Rating T.B.A. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £169,950**KINGSWINFORD****Dudley Road**

A SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED AND DISTINCTIVE, TRADITIONAL, BAY-FRONTED SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is conveniently located, just a short distance from the centre of Kingswinford, offering VERY SPACIOUS accommodation, all of which is ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED and comprising: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, ground floor WC, splendid large open-plan Lounge with Dining Room, DELIGHTFUL, LARGE CONSERVATORY, extended/refitted luxury Kitchen with appliances, Utility Room, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, beautifully re-appointed Bathroom, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and GAS CENTRAL HEATING. With HUGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY/FORECOURT, useful GARAGE/STORE and enjoying a GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN with a pleasantly secluded rear aspect. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£167,500**WORDSLEY****The Haven**

THIS SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED, NOW INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS AND THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED, MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is pleasantly and conveniently located within this small cul de sac, close to Wordsley's King George Park, and offering ATTRACTIVELY APPOINTED / PRESENTED accommodation, comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, magnificent large extended lounge with dining area, light wood style fitted kitchen with appliances, THREE EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS, beautifully refitted bathroom, separate w.c. GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With CRETE PAVEMENT STYLE DRIVEWAY to the front, GARAGE and LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN with attractive decking, lawn and shrubs. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£164,950**WORDSLEY****New Street**

A SUBSTANTIAL, DOUBLE FRONTED DETACHED PERIOD HOUSE REQUIRING COMPLETE RENOVATION well placed within a conservation area, close to village shops, park and schools, providing much potential to enhance the INCREDIBLY SPACIOUS layout comprising: Hall, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Cellar, Kitchen, Verandah, Bathroom and THREE VERY LARGE BEDROOMS. The property is set beyond a small walled frontage and enjoys a HUGE PRINCIPALLY LEVEL REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating G. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£149,950**WOMBOURNE**

Very pleasantly located within this delightful address, just a short distance from Sainsbury's supermarket within nearby Bridgnorth Road, this ATTRACTIVE MODERN DETACHED BUNGALOW offers WELL APPOINTED and TASTEFULLY DECORATED accommodation which is READY TO MOVE INTO, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: Reception Hall, spacious Lounge, attractively appointed Kitchen with integrated appliances, TWO BEDROOMS (both fitted) and classic white Bathroom. With DRIVEWAY/PARKING, GARAGE and enjoying a GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN pleasantly laid out with patio, lawns, attractive shrub areas and enjoying the pleasant open side aspect of a neighbouring playing field. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£141,950**Holloway Drive****WORDSLEY****Bells Lane**

AN IMMACULATE, SPACIOUS AND EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED, MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is situated within this established address, upon a pleasant walk-way with ATTRACTIVE GREEN to the front, offering BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED accommodation, including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: reception hall, full width lounge, attractively refitted dining kitchen with appliances, THREE GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS and stylish luxury appointed shower room. Set back beyond a lawned fore garden with wide block paved pathway leading to gated side access to an ATTRACTIVELY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN with patio, decking and lawn. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£137,950**UPPER GORNAL****Greenhill Road**

This immaculately presented, conscientiously maintained, UPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached home is situated in a popular residential location & simply must be viewed to fully appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The impressive property comprises entrance hall, stylish through lounge/dining room, splendid re-fitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units, side lobby/utility, guest w.c., three good bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, driveway providing ample parking, garage & a lawned rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £129,950**NETHERTON****Bobington Way**

This neatly presented, UPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom terraced property has been conscientiously maintained by the current owners, and is well worthy of internal inspection. Accommodation briefly comprises: re-fitted Kitchen with a fine range of units, L shaped - extended Lounge / Dining Room, three good Bedrooms (master with fitted wardrobes), Bathroom with separate WC, Garage, Driveway and a low maintenance rear Garden. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£114,950**BROCKMOOR****Cressett Lane**

This immaculately presented, double glazed gas centrally heated three bedroom semi detached home is situated in an established residential location, convenient for local amenities and may be of particular interest to first time buyers or young families. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, Hall, stylish Lounge, re-fitted Kitchen with a fine range of units, three Bedrooms, Bathroom with white suite, Garage, Driveway and a low maintenance Rear Garden. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£104,950**RUSSELLS HALL****Ashenhurst Road**

This part UPVC double glazed, three bedroom semi detached home would now ideally benefit from sympathetic improvement / upgrading, yet offers excellent potential. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, the property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, three bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, Garage and lawned rear Garden. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£99,950**DUDLEY****Monciffe Close**

This well presented, partially double glazed Third Floor Flat has been conscientiously maintained by the current owner and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. The stylish accommodation briefly comprises: Secure communal entrance, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, gated parking and lawned communal grounds. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£63,950**KINGSWINFORD****OVER £9,000 REDUCTION****Catesby Drive**

A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED AND THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED MODERN SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is pleasantly located within this delightful cul de sac address upon prestigious Charterfields, now offering SUCCESSFULLY ALTERED and IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS LAY OUT of accommodation including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING and comprising: entrance hall, ground floor WC, spacious large lounge, attractively refitted dining kitchen with integrated appliances, office / bedroom 4, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS and refitted bathroom. With lawned fore garden and patio / lawned rear garden with GARAGE to the rear. EPC Rating G. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£147,500**BOBBINGTON****£17,000 REDUCTION - NO UPWARD CHAIN**

Delightfully located, forming part of this small exclusive cul de sac development, this SUBSTANTIAL AND DISTINCTIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME enjoys a very pleasant outlook towards the village church of Holy Cross, offering a VERY SPACIOUS and WELL PROPORTIONED layout of VERY WELL PRESENTED accommodation, including CENTRAL HEATING, REPLACEMENT UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: reception hall, ground floor guests cloakroom/w.c., large attractive lounge with walk in bay, separate formal dining room, spacious fitted kitchen, FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS (master with refitted en suite shower room) and luxury refitted house bathroom. The property is further enhanced by the attractive front lawn, LARGE BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, DOUBLE GARAGE and a beautifully laid out, established and secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£262,950**Glebelands****DUDLEY****Old Park Road**

This beautifully presented, UPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, EXTENDED semi detached home benefits from a covered SWIMMING POOL and viewing is essential to fully appreciate the standard of accommodation provided. The conscientiously maintained property briefly comprises entrance porch, hall, lounge, splendid dining kitchen addition, utility, guest w.c., three good bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, large workshop, driveway, covered swimming pool & a pleasant rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £139,950**WOODSETTON****Parkes Hall Road**

An absolutely outstanding, exceptionally stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated (comb boiler), and UPVC double glazed semi detached that has been tremendously enhanced to a superb specification in recent years. The superb accommodation comprises: entrance porch, reception hall, living room with bay, transverse refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of "Shaker - cream" styled units. Three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with a white contemporary look suite with chrome accessories/shower. Off road parking to front, PROFESSIONALLY LANDSCAPED garden, and GARAGE to rear. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in excess of £135,000**COSELEY**

NO UPWARD CHAIN. This traditional, EXTENDED, UPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated semi detached home is situated in an established residential location. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, rear lobby/utility, three bedrooms, shower room, garage, driveway, gardens to front & rear. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £129,950**DUDLEY****Oak Green, Old Park Farm estate**

An absolutely outstanding, comprehensive modernised & refurbished, gas centrally heated (comb boiler) & UPVC double glazed semi detached in established/convenient district. "Transformed" by present vendors in recent months, the superb accommodation includes reception hall, magnificent lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & various integrated appliances, three generous bedrooms (two with wardrobes), reappointed bathroom with white contemporary style suite, sophisticated alarm system, potential off road parking, ample secluded turfed rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £119,950**COSELEY****Ettingshall Road**

This traditional style, UPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom semi detached home which is "tucked away" just off Ettingshall Road, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, Front & rear gardens. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £90,000**DUDLEY****£5000 REDUCTION****Cromwell Drive**

Situated in an established residential location, and enjoying panoramic views to the rear, this traditional style, three bedroomed semi-detached family home would ideally benefit from cosmetic improvement and updating, yet offers excellent potential, and may represent an ideal first time buy. With majority UPVC double glazing and a gas central heating system, the property briefly comprises: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs w.c., breakfast room, three bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, and a lengthy rear garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£84,950**BRIERLEY HILL****Fens Crescent**

Pleasantly situated within this established address, this VERY WELL ARRANGED AND THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME, affords a layout with both GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND MAJORITY UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING to comprise: Hall, lovely sitting room, stunning re-fitted kitchen, two good first floor bedrooms and white bathroom. Large front drive providing vehicular parking and enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£81,500**DUDLEY****GREAT POTENTIAL****Buffery Road**

This Victorian style, three bedroomed, gas centrally heated, mid terrace property with UPVC double glazed windows would now ideally benefit from sympathetic modernisation / improvement, yet offers excellent potential. Accommodation briefly comprises: two Reception rooms, Kitchen, three Bedrooms, Wet Room and rear Garden. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

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VIEW THIS WEEKEND

Local builder, **Parkes Homes**, opens their new demonstration home at

The Ironmaster, Wesley Street, WV14 8TX

on **Good Friday, 29th March at 12 noon.**

This small, quality development of just eight one and 2 bedroom properties has an excellent specification and full LABC warranty with prices ranging from **£79,950 - £119,950.**

Call in over the Bank Holiday weekend to view

or contact Jeanette on **07583 580019** for more information.

NETHERTON Trysull Way



An immaculate three bedroom semi detached house with accommodation briefly comprising of hallway, lounge, kitchen with dining area, conservatory, upstairs shower room, detached garage, rear gardens and a large driveway to the front

£154,950

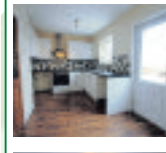
Tipton ANCHOR DRIVE



A beautiful modern semi detached house with hallway, downstairs wc, fitted kitchen, lounge, upstairs family bathroom with separate shower, two double bedrooms, rear garden with patio area and driveway to the front. Viewing is highly recommended

£114,950

DUDLEY Priory Road



A three bedroom semi detached house situated on a generous corner plot with hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen with dining area, downstairs bathroom, upstairs wc, driveway to the rear and gardens to the front and rear

£109,950

TIPTON Geneva Avenue



A three bedroom end terrace house in need of some modernisation with accommodation briefly comprising of hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, downstairs wc, upstairs bathroom, driveway and garden to the rear

£69,950

BRIERLEY HILL Cressett Avenue



A modern two bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, kitchen, upstairs bathroom, driveway and garden to the rear

£94,950

TIVIDALE Hoylake Drive



Located in this highly desirable location this three bedroom detached house briefly comprises of lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, gardens to the front and rear, driveway and garage.

£159,950

Tividale CALIFORNIA ROAD



An immaculately presented two bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge with dining area, kitchen with large storage cupboard, large laundry room, both bedrooms are a double size, upstairs family bathroom, rear garden with patio area and off road parking to the front

£106,950

Wednesbury BAGNALLS WHARF



A first floor modern apartment with hallway, lounge, kitchen, two double bedrooms, bathroom and a balcony from the lounge overlooking the canal, allocated parking and secure entry system

£80,000

DUDLEY Redwood Avenue



A beautifully presented three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, utility room, downstairs wc, upstairs bathroom, driveway to the front and garden to the rear

£119,950

Dudley BIRMINGHAM ROAD



A three bedroom semi detached house in need of some modernisation with porch, hallway, lounge with dining area, kitchen, upstairs bathroom and gardens to the front and rear

£89,950

Tividale NEW BIRMINGHAM ROAD



A three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, dining room, conservatory, upstairs bathroom, large driveway and mature gardens to the rear

£129,950

HOLLY HALL Suffolk Road



A three bedroom semi detached property on a generous corner plot. Briefly comprising lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

£109,950

BILSTON Cumberland Road



A one bedroom first floor apartment with hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and secure entry system

£49,950

DUDLEY Gads Green Crescent



A two bedroom first floor apartment with hallway, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, communal gardens and secure entry system

£47,950

DUDLEY Himley Road



An impressive five bedroom semi detached house set in an elevated position with amazing views. The house briefly comprises of lounge, dining room, third reception room, fitted kitchen, cellar, utility room, shower room, further bathroom on first floor, driveway to the rear, garage and garden

£174,950

Dudley BENNETTS HILL



A beautifully presented and deceptively spacious 3/4 bedroom bungalow. Briefly comprising of lounge, dining room, third reception room/bedroom, fourth reception room/bedroom, kitchen, breakfast room, work shop and a family bathroom. To the rear there is a tiered mature enchanting garden and to the front of the property there is ample off road parking.

£229,950

Russells Hall MERRYFIELD ROAD



A three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, dining area, modern fitted kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, garage, gardens to the front and rear and off road parking.

£134,950

LOWER GORNAL Fiveways Court



A beautifully presented three bedroom three storey mid terrace house which is available on 50% shared ownership basis. The property briefly comprises of hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, garden to the rear and secure allocated parking to the front

£69,950

DUDLEY Blackacre Road



A splendid, one bed studio apartment - fully furnished with cooking facilities. Free broadband, council tax, gas bills and cleaning services included in the rent. Available now. DSS considered with a guarantor.

£395 PCM

DUDLEY Aldeney Close



A modern first floor apartment. One bedroom, open plan lounge/ fitted kitchen, house shower room/WC. Viewing highly recommended. Allocated parking available. No Dss.

£460 PCM

TIVIDALE Tividale Road



A two bed mid terrace house with double glazing and central heating. Two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Unfurnished, available now. DSS considered with a guarantor.

£460 PCM

DUDLEY 66/67 High Street



A recently refurbished two bedroom first floor apartment with open plan lounge diner, fitted kitchen, good size bedrooms and centrally located.

£475 pcm

DUDLEY Cinder Bank



A two bedroom mid terrace house with lounge, dining room, modern kitchen. Two good size bedrooms, house bathroom/ wc with shower over bath. Unfurnished, available now. No DSS.

£475 PCM

TIVIDALE Wilson Drive



Modern 2 bed Semi detached property. Quiet end of road location. En-suite to master bedroom. Off Road parking. NO DSS. NO PETS. Available now for viewings.

£525 PCM

BRIERLEY HILL Fenton Street



Recently modernised three bedroom terrace. Two reception rooms, fitted kitchen with built in oven & hob. Double bedrooms on 1st floor and further attic room. House bathroom. Unfurnished. No Dss. No pets. Available now.

£540 PCM

Jon Stanier

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BROCKMOOR MOUNT AVENUE

Pleasantly situated at head of this small respected cul-de-sac close to the centre of Brockmoor, this attractively presented EXTENDED 3 Bed Semi provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family or First Time Buyer. Hall, stylish Lounge, superb refitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob and adjoining Dining area, LAUNDRY/UTILITY with DOWNSTAIRS W.C. OFF. 3 Bedrooms (2 with fitted wardrobes), attractively fitted Bathroom with Shower, useful Loft, pleasant good sized wide level rear Gardens and Driveway for 2 cars to the front EPC-E

Offers around £119,995



BROCKMOOR FOXFOOT DRIVE

This superbly presented Modern 2 Bed Semi is very pleasantly situated off a private driveway leading from the popular cul-de-sac and represents a splendid opportunity for the discerning First Time Buyer or young family. With GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND STYLISH UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING the deceptively spacious accommodation includes: Porch/Hall, spacious Lounge, SUPERB REFITTED KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, 2 generous Bedrooms, SUMPTUOUS RE-APPOINTED SHOWER ROOM, pleasant landscaped rear Gardens, black paved driveway and additional parking space in small bay opposite EPC-D

Offers around £118,500



WITHYMOORE VILLAGE MONKSWELL CLOSE

Most pleasantly situated in this popular cul-de-sac close to WITHYMOORE PRIMARY SCHOOL, this attractively presented, newly improved Modern 3 Bed End Townhouse provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time Buyer. Hall, stylish refitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, CONSERVATORY, 3 Bedrooms (constructed as 2 but easily reconverted if required), fitted Bathroom, lawned rear garden with pleasant outlook and Garage in separate block close by EPC-D

Offers around £117,500



PENSNETT BELMONT ROAD

Providing generously proportioned, neatly refurbished GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation ideal for the larger young family, this splendid 4 Bedroom Semi-Detached residence is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and briefly comprises:- Porch, Hall, Spacious Lounge, SUPERB LARGE RE-FITTED DINING KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, Utility area, 3 good Bedrooms, refitted Bathroom with Shower, SPACIOUS LOFT/ATTIC ROOM, lawned rear Gardens and Driveway for 2 cars to the front EPC-D

Offers around £114,950



PENSNETT BRYCE ROAD

This attractively presented neatly improved and EXTENDED 2 Bedroomed Semi provides well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND PART UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation ideal for the young family of First Time Buyer and enjoys a pleasant position in this popular and convenient address. Briefly comprises:- Porch, Hall, spacious Lounge, spacious extended RE-FITTED DINING KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, 2 good Bedrooms, fitted Shower room, good sized rear gardens with pleasant outlook and Driveway to the front EPC-D

Offers around £96,950



BROCKMOOR BRIARS CLOSE

This attractively presented Modern 2 Bedroomed Intermediate Townhouse provides deceptively spacious DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation ideal for the First Time Buyer, young couple or retired and is pleasantly situated in this more secluded development close to local amenities. Briefly comprises:- Porch/Hall, stylish Lounge, SUPERB RE-FITTED DINING KITCHEN, Sun Room/Conservatory, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom with shower, enclosed rear Gardens, rear garden and car parking space. EPC-E

Offers around £95,950



BRIERLEY HILL BANK STREET

Very conveniently situated close to the Town Centre, this 2 Bed End Terrace provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer, young family or INVESTOR. Briefly comprises: Hall, Lounge, separate Sitting/Dining Room, Breakfast area opening to fitted Kitchen with built-in oven/hob and fridge/freezer, 2 EXCELLENT BEDROOMS, large fitted Bathroom with separate shower, enclosed rear Garden/Yard with southerly facing aspect and views. EPC-E

Offers around £84,950



DUDLEY QUENTIN DRIVE

Pleasantly situated towards the head of the popular and mature cul-de-sac with LARGE WELL KEPT REAR GARDENS, this delightful Modern 3 Bed Detached provides refreshingly spacious gas centrally heated and Upvc double glazed accommodation ideal for the larger family and briefly comprises:- Hall, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Excellent Bedrooms, Large Bathroom with Separate Shower, Large Side Garage, Pleasant Large Lawned Rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect and Black Paved Driveway for 2 Cars to the front EPC-D

Offers around £197,500



RUSSELLS HALL MINEHEAD ROAD

This lovely and delightfully presented 2 Bedroomed Semi Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation ideal for the young family in this popular address CLOSE TO RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL. Briefly comprises:- Spacious Lounge with Dining Area, Conservatory, attractively fitted Kitchen, 2 Double Bedrooms (master with fitted wardrobe), refitted Shower Room, delightfully kept Rear Gardens with Summerhouse and Stores, Side Garage, Car Port and Driveway for 2 cars. EPC-D

Offers around £115,000



KINGSWINFORD NANAIMO WAY

Pleasantly situated with LARGE LAWNEED REAR GARDENS at the head of this popular and convenient cul-de-sac, this spacious 3 Bed Semi-Detached affords DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation ideal for the young family and provides tremendous further potential. Briefly comprises:- Hall, Lounge, Separate Dining Room opening to Kitchen, Utility and Laundry Room, 3 Good Bedrooms, RE-FITTED WET ROOM, Separate W.C., Side Garage, Driveway and splendid Pleasant Good Sized Mature Lawned Rear Gardens with private outlook EPC-D

Offers around £114,950



BROCKMOOR PHEASANT STREET

Providing spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED family accom in this popular and convenient address, this 3 Bed Inner Townhouse requires cosmetic upgrading but offers tremendous further scope with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises: Hall, spacious Lounge, separate Dining Room, Kitchen, Downs W.C., 3 GOOD BEDROOMS, Bathroom with shower and long lawned rear Gardens. EPC-D

Offers around £89,950



BROCKMOOR WILSON ROAD

This attractively presented, neatly improved 3 Bedroomed Semi-Detached is pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient cul-de-sac and provides deceptively spacious gas centrally heated and Upvc double glazed accommodation ideal for the young family or First Time Buyer and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises:- Hall, attractive Lounge, Dining Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, SUPERB RE-FITTED SHOWER ROOM, lawned rear Gardens and driveway parking to front EPC-E

Offers around £87,950



BRIERLEY HILL LIMES AVENUE

This attractively presented and lovingly maintained 2 Bedroomed Semi provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation ideal for the First Time Buyer, young family or INVESTOR and is pleasantly situated in this popular address. Briefly comprises:- Porch, Hall, Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen, 2 Good Bedrooms, Superb Refitted Bathroom with Shower, delightfully kept Rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect and GARAGE TO THE REAR EPC-D

Offers around £84,950



BROCKMOOR CRESSETT LANE

Pleasantly situated in this popular and convenient address, this "Victorian" 2 Bedroomed Semi-Detached provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accommodation ideal for the First Time Buyer or young family and briefly comprises: Lounge, SUPERB RE-FITTED DINING KITCHEN, 2 good Bedrooms (2nd leading to fitted Bathroom with shower), Useful Loft Room and shared rear Gardens with southerly facing aspect EPC-E

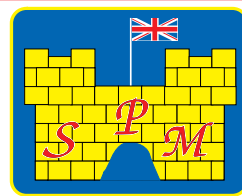
Offers around £77,950



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KINVER STREET

£550 pcm
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PENSNETT



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LAKESIDE



LAKESIDE COURT

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£595 pcm
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TIVIDALE



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DUDLEY



BOURNE STREET

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ROWLEY REGIS



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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Vauxhall supermini with combinations

YOU could argue that Vauxhall is a bit late to the party when it comes to the fashion-led supermini segment dominated by the triumvirate of the Mini, the Fiat 500 and the Citroen DS3, but the Adam's lateness might just be the making of it.

Buyers in this lucrative part of the car market are looking for something different, and more specifically something they can make their own.

With that in mind, try this on for size: the Adam comes in four billion possible combinations. Which is a lot.

By Matt Kimberley

There are around 60,000 different combinations for the exterior and about 80,000 for the inside, but since some combinations aren't allowed for either stylistic or manufacturing reasons, the 4.8 billion theoretical possibilities gets cut back a bit.

As you sit in the dealership, you can choose to change more than you can on any other car, such as the dashboard

finish and colour scheme, the headlining style, coloured clips on the wheel spokes, steering wheel trim colour, door trim colour, front grille cross-member colour, wheel style, wheel colour, roof colour, body sticker style and colour, gear lever and handbrake lever finish and then colour, body paint colour, seat fabric type, engine choice, trim level and so on until you realise that it's dark and all the sales staff have gone home.

Ultimately, there will be 40 styles of wheel alone, before you move into wheel colours and clips. Expect the 12 funky named exterior colours such as Papa Don't Peach, James Blonde, Buzz Lightgreen and I'll Be Black to be expanded as well. Before too long, there might just be an Adam for every person on the planet.

But if you prefer, you can just choose an 'Extreme Pack', which basically gives you a ready-made

design built from a combination of the available choices into a cohesive look. The choice is yours.

On more familiar ground, there are three trim levels, but none will have any identifying badges, so no one will necessarily know whether any individual Adam is the cheapest but still well-equipped Jam, mid-range Glam or the sporty Slam.

The engine under the bonnet will stay a secret too; from a choice of 1.2 and 1.4 petrols. There's no diesel and there never will be according to Vauxhall. There's just no demand for it in a car this small. And small it is, based on a shortened and heavily modified Corsa chassis.

Responsive

The larger engine is much more responsive than the 1.2, which feels a bit dim-witted at times compared to the genuinely sharp and lively character of the 1.4.

It comes in two power outputs, but either will do the job nicely. The 1.4 is still lightweight too, which gives the Adam a lovely lightweight and nimble feel at the front wheels. It bites into turns as keenly as a vampire bat; all the more so with larger, wider wheels and tyres fitted.

There's not much body roll either. Strengthening work around the suspension has done wonders to keep the stylish little nipper flat and stable without denting its thoroughly likeable sense of chuckability.

Even if you only potter around in it, there's a certain sense of joie de vivre, which is partly thanks to the interior style and partly down to the well-judged balance between the way the steering, pedals and slightly notchy five-speed gearbox feel.

It's easy to drive and easy to enjoy, although on the motorway the revs spin too high and it buzzes along a little out of its comfort zone.

There's not a massive amount of room in the boot. Although it's relatively deep and you can squeeze a surprising amount of soft baggage in, the pinching point where the

rear seat backs and the load lip come closest is a bit of a barrier to getting bigger stuff or hard cases in.

Vauxhall hasn't been shy with the equipment on offer, but with all models blessed with alloy wheels, a chunky leather-covered steering wheel and colourful interiors, the actual equipment you get takes a back seat to the enjoyment and feel-good factor the car gives you. When was the last time automatic windscreen wipers made you grin like a fool anyway?

Nonetheless, all the gear you could hope for is available, including a clever touchscreen 'Intellilink' interface that simply transfers your smartphone's main functions to the display.

The Adam might be late to the party, but it's learned from its rivals and it moves the game on.

Astonishing customisation potential in a great-looking starting package is likely to be a sizeable ace up the Adam's sleeve.



The Vauxhall Adam which offers thousands of different combinations



The interior has huge scope for personalisation

Your essential guide to the world of motoring



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56 Reg	BEETLE CABRIOLET Auto. Red, 33k miles.....	£7495
06 Reg	ASTRA 1.6 SXi SPORTHATCH Black, 40k miles.....	£5750
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57 Reg	CITROEN 1.1 C2 DESIGN 3 door. Metallic Red, 44k miles	£4495
05 Reg	TIGRA 1.8 44k miles	£3995
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Vauxhall



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RICKY 39, honest, caring, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks lady, 35-40 for good times in and out.

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SINGLE LADIES

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ABBY is a passionate sexy girl seeking some fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 373603

SUSAN 49, fun loving, 5ft 2ins, brown hair/eyes, many interests, needs hand mending. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 204862

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429

CAROL, discreet, married, 47yrs seeks man for fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400499

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

TINA fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567

AMY 19yr old single female looking for much older naughty male for discreet fun times only. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403361

SHARON medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTm all round nice guy for adult relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403345

CAROL South African lonely heart 37yrs, looking for fun with mature gent 50plus, likes dining in/out, discretion assured/appreciated. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403337

WIDOW seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076

TALL curvy female, 36kl, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTm tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. AKA. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

43YR old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402945

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

BERNIE Beautiful black lady with no ties seeks her King, curvy, intelligent, feminine and all you will ever need, what are you waiting for? Call me. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402991

ALISON 37 animal loving female who enjoys a quiet life, cooking, seeks older respectful male 42-60yrs to enjoy meals out and cosy nights in. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402793

HI I am Sara 21, a petite single mum, sporty, caring and looking for reliable, well groomed male 30-40yrs for adult 1-2-1. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402771

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JEANETTE 35, blonde blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people, WLTm someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402655

LISA 30's tall slim beauty looking for dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402645

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

LIZ 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047



CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

SHAPLEY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

SLIM curvy blonde, 44, professional, seeks tall, professional male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 171231

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

FUN loving lady, 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169

BLACK attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388741

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319

39YR old black haired, medium build, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753

NICKY looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393

SINGLE MEN

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : **CHAT207 To : 65125.** (T&C's below).

45YR old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631

GARY kind, caring, seeks special lady, any age for fun times and more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403585

MIKE 45, bored, seeks female, any age for adult fun and good times. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403461

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MALE 5ft 8ins, athletic, GSOH, seeks older lady for fun. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402357

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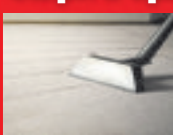
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A PRIVATE idyllic 1 bedroom country Cottage Shifnal/Tong. 07976 263453 or 01902 700028

BEDSIT Suitable for working, mature person, well maintained and secure, close to amenities (Penn). 07768 687815

COSELEY Unfurnished spacious, self contained Flat, 1 bedroom, garden. £270pcm. 01902 738854

DARLSTON 3 Bed house, fully modernised, DG, CH. Deposit. DSS ok £140pw 07971 120296

DSSMOVE.CO.UK the property website where properties say YES to DSS

FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD Fully furnished and refurbished to a high standard, with off road parking, would suit working Gen. aged 45 plus. £75pw. Telephone 01902 304258.

FULLY FURNISHED BEDSITS Tettenhall area. No DSS. 07976 263453 or 01902 700028

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ONE BEDROOM FLAT, £85pw, Wolverhampton, close to town. Telephone 07863 290115

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst the Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk

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01902 751779
07815 731 888

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FIAT PUNTO 1.2 Active

2005, 05 reg, 12 months MoT, taxed, EW, MoT, good condition, £1,295. 07933 694965.

FORD ESCORT, 5 door, 1.6, W reg (2000). MoT, tax, pas, superb low mileage. £585 ono. 07773 620388.

FORD FIESTA, auto, 1997, 57,000 miles, silver, MoT, CD, 5 doors, £400 ono. 07631 514295.

FORD FOCUS 1.6LS, hatchback, 03 reg, 75,000 miles, MoT Oct 2013, April 2013. £1,295. 0121 526 6675. 07706 849819.

FORD KA, 2001, taxed and MoT'd, leather seats, alloys, £900. Telephone 07976 794891.

JAGUAR XJ6 Executive, 3.2, 145,000 miles, MoT Feb 2014. £1,000 ono.

0121 5200153 or 07977 017963

MICRA 998cc, X reg, 3-dr, blue, MoT and taxed, August 2010, 34,000 miles, excellent condition, nice car. £900. 01902 428784.

NISSAN MICRA 1000cc, 2001, tax and MoT, good runner, economical, 5550 ono. 01902 561492.

PEUGEOT 106 INCA, 1985, 954cc, 106,000 miles, blue, 12 months MoT, £400. 07976 752898.

PEUGEOT 106 XN 12 reg, L reg, careful lady owner for 12 years. MoT, tax, £575. 07900 842947.

RENAULT CLIO 02 reg, blue, new, 2 doors, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, £1,300. 07730 003572.

ROVER 75 CLUB 1ST

53 reg, silver, 70k miles, auto, petrol, alloys, 10 months MoT, 5 months tax, Rover FSH, alloys, beautiful, unmarked condition in and out. £1,300, or very low offer. 01902 678425.

TOYOTA CELICA 2.0GT, 1992, 134k miles, grey, alloy, MoT Dec, cl, pas, s/r, alloys, CD/MP3 sub, Bridgnorth, £500. 07984 521502.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6LS ESTATE

2000, X reg, 80,800 miles, silver, electric windows, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, tax, CD, petrol, good condition. £1,050 ono.

07740 418668.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Estate 1.70TI, Envoys, 53 reg, white, 165k, tax/MoT SH, reliable runner, 5500 ono. 07950 580580.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi, 51/02 reg, 3dr, low mileage 69k, full MoT, 2 months tax, £1,285. 07850 113690.

VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4, 1 reg, 88k, MoT, tax, Apr, very good condition, £500 ono. 07985 292172.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2004, MoT August, tax July, good condition, £400 previous new, £1,485. 07986 85055.

cars over £1500

BMW 3 SERIES, 2001, Estate, automatic, 105,000 miles, MoT, sunroof, alloy, CD, leather interior, petrol, £2,150. 07733 035450.

CHEVROLET LACETTI 1.6 Est. petrol, light blue, 57 plate, 21,500 miles, tax, 68k, 2 new front tyres. £2,500. 07572 833335.

FIAT DOBLO Dynamic 1.3 Multijet, diesel, 58 plate, 21,500 miles, excellent condition, metallic green, fish, MoT, tax, alloys, towbar, £5,250 ono. 07866 815741.

FORD CMAX TITANIUM 2007, front and rear parking sensors, leather interior, heated seats, fish, 6 months MoT and tax. £5,500. Telephone 07889 032306.

FORD FIESTA 02 reg, later shape, 5 door, remote central locking, EW, CD player, tax and MoT, 70,000 miles, 2 owners, excellent condition. £1,850 ono. 01902 829872.

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SUZUKI BANDIT 650cc, 07, 7k, service record, owners manual, 3 keys. New tyres, taxed, full MoT, £2,500 ono. 07910 079339.

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Champion Nancy gets European double win

DUDLEY runner Nancy Hitchmough is the queen of Europe.

The veteran Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers AC member had already won at the British Masters Indoor Championships but followed up with a double triumph in Europe.

She won the W60 age group 800m in two minutes 41.3 seconds in San Sebastian, Spain and added the 1,500m crown in 5min 38.85sec – both championship-best performances.

Not to be outdone, the club's oldest athlete Eric Horwill – recently turned 80 – took the age group gold medal in the 5km walk at the European Road Championships in Spain.

In the Midland Open at Birmingham, under-17 athlete Kyle De Escofet continued fine indoor form with times of 7.07sec for 60m and 11.05sec for the 100m, ranking him ninth and first respectively in the UK for his age.

Another under-17, Emily Horne, also set a best time for the 60m with 8.09sec.

Dudley and Stourbridge AC members took part in the Bath Half Marathon, which attracted more than 11,000 runners. Paul Waby came 72nd – fourth over-45 runner – in 1hr 14min 59sec and Paul Mountford chased him home in 79th with 1hr 15min 27sec.

Pool league

Black Country Pool League
...P W L D F A Pt
B Hill Snooker ...9. 8. 0. 1 42 12 68
The Crown B ...9. 8. 0. 1 43 11 66
The Crown A ...9. 7. 1. 1 39 15 60
Wheatstaple B ...9. 6. 2. 1 31 23 50
Coseley Tavern ...9. 5. 1. 3 31 23 49
Dudley Snooker ...9. 5. 3. 1 31 23 46
Club Dudley ...9. 4. 3. 2 31 23 45
The Grange A ...9. 5. 4. 0 27 27 44
Ellis Bar ...9. 4. 2. 3 26 28 43
Rookery Tavern ...9. 3. 2. 4 29 25 42
White Swan ...9. 3. 4. 2 26 28 36
Bluebells ...9. 2. 4. 2 22 32 33
Britannia ...9. 3. 6. 0 21 33 32
The Grange B ...9. 2. 6. 1 21 33 31
Wheatstaple A ...9. 0. 5. 4 21 33 29
The Brades A ...9. 1. 6. 2 19 36 23
The Brades B ...9. 0. 7. 2 13 41 17
The 3 Crowns ...9. 0. 8. 1 11 43 13
Match 9: Wheatstaple A 1 The Crown B 5; Brierley Hill Snooker 5
Dudley Snooker 1; White Swan 2
Coseley Tavern 4; Three Crowns 1 The Grange A 5; The Crown A 5 The Brades A 1; The Brades B 2 Ellis Bar 4; The Grange B 1 Britannia 5; Club Dudley 3
Bunch of Bluebells 3; Rookery Tavern 3
Wheatstaple B 3.

Football fixtures

Dudley & Cradley Heath
Sunday, March 31
Premier Division: Pensnett Utd v Willenhall Three Crowns.
Division 1: Brierley Mow Wdres v Dudley Olympic; Haddock Rovers v Tenth Lock; Halesowen Members v Forest Falcons; Ocker Hill Waggon v Malt Shovel Ath; Rutton Harriers v Dudley Utd; Sedgely White Lion v Britannia Conygre.

Battle expected for leading role



Lewis Blackbird

HEATHENS team boss Will Pottinger is expecting a battle like in the Cradley days of old for the leading role in their team this season.

Pottinger expects big things from skipper Ashley Morris and new signings Paul Starke and Lewis Blackbird.

Dan Greenwood is also fired up to establish himself as a heat-leader in a big season for the Heathens.

Pottinger said: "I think the battle for the No.1 jacket will have a positive effect. When you look at the old Cradley days, when Greg Hancock and Billy Hamill were at the top of the team, there was a good bit of friendly rivalry between them.

"I think that will be the case between the three lads."

Dudley Heathens

Paul (Starke), Lewis (Blackbird) and of course Ash (Morris) who starts at No.1.

"Lewis is obviously still on his old average and Paul Starke as well is a much better rider than his figure suggests.

"Saying that, I think Ashley has room for improvement on his average as well because he did have a couple of disappointing meetings last year.

"He'll be starting the season riding Premier League (with Workington) as well and that can only be positive for him. It should be a good battle between the three lads."

Dudley's Travel Plus Trophy trip to Coventry last Friday was postponed.

It means that the meeting between the sides at Wolverhampton on April 9 now becomes the first leg as well as Dudley's opening night.

A new date of April 19 has been agreed for the second leg to be completed at Brandon.

Heathens head to Mildenhall a week on Sunday (April 7), for the first leg of the National Shield.

■ Dudley are looking to rent a track so their riders can get some laps in. They were due to take part in Wolverhampton's Press and practice night on Tuesday, but the event was cancelled due to snow.



Ashley Morris. Picture: John Hipkiss Photography

Premier division success is target

FORMER Old Hill, Halesowen and West Bromwich Dartmouth wicket-keeper/batsman Mark Fisher has been charged with continuing Wombourne Cricket Club's success story together with director of cricket Ross Edwards.

Fisher will be bringing some top-flight nous to a youthful squad in the Birmingham League Premier Division after ex-skipper Liam Hughes' exit due to work commitments in London.

Edwards said: "Mark has been around a bit and he is an experienced Birmingham League campaigner.

The rest of the squad are all under 25 so his experience will be vital."

Edwards, who oversaw promotion from Division One last summer, spread his net far to add to the squad with paceman Dewi Jones, aged 18, checking in via the Glamorgan academy.

Ex-Hampshire academy all-rounder Henry Bartlett arrives from the Isle of Wight and, closer to home, the club have signed off-spinner Ben Robinson from Staffs Clubs outfit Beacon.

The club are also putting the finishing touches to a deal to sign an overseas player for the summer.

"This will be Wombourne's first season in the Premier Division.

"It's an exciting time for the club and we are trying to ensure that we are ready for it," added Edwards.

"We are looking to build a young side and to put some foundations down for the future.

"We made a conscious decision to recruit talented younger players who want to progress."

Double title win for Bardsley

A KINVER schoolgirl has landed a double county table tennis success.

Charlotte Bardsley, who has just turned 11 and attends Heathfield School, Kidderminster, plays at Cookley Table Tennis Club.

She was among five teammates who travelled to Evesham for the Worcestershire county championships – and won two titles.

Bardsley underlined her potential by taking both the under-12 girls' and under-15 cadet titles.

Bardsley only began attending coaching at Cookley in September.

Goal-shy Robins go nap clobbering Cottagers

Wednesfield 0 Dudley Town 5
HITTING the net has proved difficult for Dudley Town this season – but they had no problem finding it with a five-star performance against Wednesfield in the West Midlands Premier League cup.

Dreniz Bala opened the scoring after 10 minutes, lashing home a sweet right footed effort from 12 yards.

Two minutes later, Town doubled their advantage when a shot from Grant Joshua was blocked on the edge of the six-yard box.

The ball fell straight to Tom Gadd, who found the back of the net from eight yards despite Nathan Jones' valiant effort to block the shot.

Dudley were now in complete control and were awarded a penalty four minutes later when Bradley Lewis bought down Chris Whittaker just inside the box.

Denied

Joshua stepped up to strike the spot-kick but was denied by a fine diving save by Wednesfield keeper Sam Arnold, who turned the shot around the post.

But the relief for the home side was short-lived last Thursday.

The resulting corner was hit short for Brett McGilligan to strike a ferocious effort from the corner of the box that gave Arnold no chance as the ball looped into the top corner.

Wednesfield's best chance of the half came after 25 minutes when a corner-kick

Dudley Town

was met by Dan Carter at the far post.

However, his looping header went just over the crossbar.

Snow greeted the players as they emerged from the half-time break.

Dudley, however, showed no signs that they were taking things easy in the cold conditions.

Eighteen minutes into the second half, Town captain Alex Perry added the fourth for the visitors.

He latched onto a McGilligan cross and found the net through a crowded penalty area.

Wednesfield's misery was completed four minutes from time when two Dudley substitutes combined for their fifth goal of the night.

Danny Ludlow ran from the halfway line and played a perfectly-weighted pass for Dominic Watson to run on to before chipping the ball into an empty net.

Dudley were due to take on Shawbury United in the West Midlands Premier last night at The Dell.



Take aim, fire – Dudley Town captain Alex Perry smacks home the fourth goal as snow falls on the two teams

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Wright is a skipper looking to the future

HIMLEY Cricket Club have gone back to the future.

Greg Wright takes on the captaincy for a second spell at the Birmingham League Premier Division outfit.

Wright, who skippered for six seasons between 2005 and 2010, will lead the team after Stuart Wedge's decision to step down and aims to give some of their talented youngsters a chance.

After using some high-profile overseas players in recent years, including former India Test batsman Wasin Jaffer, Himley have opted to build from within.

"We have made a decision not to go with an overseas player this year," said Wright, who topped the division batting charts last year.

"It is getting more and more difficult to find the money for high-profile players and we also feel it's time to give some of our younger lads a chance.

"It's not blind faith. We have some very talented youngsters at the club and there is no point having a youth section if you are not going to give the young players an opportunity."

Batsmen Jamie Harris and Oliver Westbury, both been taken on by Worcestershire's academy this year, are most likely to benefit.

Wright will have on-field backing from Nathan Round as vice-captain and coach, with a view to taking over from Wright in the future.

Finals place for the girls

A DUDLEY school is in the finals of the national schools badminton championships.

The Kingswinford School's Years 10 and 11 girls team will tackle eight other schools at Center Parcs Sherwood Forest, on the weekend of April 21-22.

It is one of the biggest school badminton tournaments in Europe.

This year, 6,140 school teams from more than 1,600 secondary schools took part with more than 31,000 children getting on-court - a 35 per cent increase on previous years.

Adrian Christy, Badminton England chief executive, said: "We would like to express our congratulations to The Kingswinford School for reaching the finals.

"It is a highly competitive and prestigious tournament that draws out talent and entries from schools right across the country."

Familiar face comes back to bolster batting

OLD HILL will welcome a familiar face back to the club this summer after signing Haden Hill old-boy Harshad Patel.

Patel moves from Smethwick to end skipper Danny Cox's search for an experienced batsman for the Birmingham League Division One campaign.

As well as figuring for numerous Birmingham League sides, including Old Hill, Stourbridge, Himley, and West Bromwich Dartmouth, 49-year-old Patel had a lengthy playing stint at Minor Counties level with Staffordshire and Herefordshire.

"I wanted to bring in an experienced

Cricket

batsman and Harshad certainly fits the bill," said Cox.

"He has bags of experience playing in the Birmingham League and at Minor Counties level.

"He will hopefully have a big influence on some of the younger players.

"Having played here before, he also knows what the club is all about."

Patel will join a squad further boosted by the arrival of two seamers as Cox plans to

avoid a repeat of last season's relegation scare. Aatif Ali has moved from Premier Division outfit West Bromwich Dartmouth, while 19-year-old left-armers Toby Lester has arrived via Loughborough MCCU and Lancashire's academy.

Brothers Jimmy and Nathan Howell have also been added to the first-team squad after signing from Staffs Clubs outfit Beacon.

The only senior departure has been wicketkeeper Ian Walker move to Fordhouses. His place behind the stumps will be filled by Warwickshire under-17 keeper Dan Brosnan.

"We have kept all the players from last year with the exception of Ian and I am pleased with the signings we have made," added Cox.

"Last year was very difficult and a real eye-opener.

"We can't afford to find ourselves in that position again.

"Had we gone down, it would have really set the club back.

"But we have managed to recruit earlier and things are looking a lot more positive."

Meanwhile, Dan Such has been appointed head of the club's junior development.



Jack Marks with Aaron Ramsey at Hampden

Jack gets call-up at qualifier

KINGSWINFORD schoolboy Jack Marks got a taste of international football at a World Cup qualifier.

The nine-year-old walked out at Hampden Park with Scotland's football team when they played Wales on Friday.

Marks, a McDonald's player escort for Wales' Aaron Ramsey, saw Chris Coleman's side win 2-1. He got his place after a competition on the website mcdonalds.co.uk/kickstart

Jack said: "It was brilliant to be on the pitch with the players before the kick-off. It was really exciting getting ready before the game and walking out with them."

Kenny Dalglish, McDonald's head of Scottish football, said: "The McDonald's community programme is about providing opportunities for people to get involved in grassroots football and to give youngsters footballing experiences that they will never forget."

"The atmosphere for this qualifier was incredible as always and I hope all the player escorts enjoyed every second."

However, Aston couldn't find the finishing blow after Psonko had taken an eight count from referee John Latham, eventually taking the contest 40-35 on points.

Defeat to Valentine was followed by a technical draw against Tyan Booth in November, where Aston sustained a cut which kept him inactive until last night.

But after beating Psonko, the slick southpaw will be back in action on the undercard of Brian Rose's scrap with Joachim Alcine in Blackpool on April 20.

Aston said: "It was just great to be back out there and get some rounds under my belt. Now I want to keep pushing on."

"My plan was to control the centre of the ring and take the fight to him."

A MIDLAND boxing title bout at Dudley will now be a derby battle.

Stourbridge's Steven Pearce defends his welterweight crown on Friday, May 3 at The Venue.

His opponent will now be fellow Stourbridge fighter Sam Eggington after Joel Ryan withdrew from the line-up.

Walsall's Ryan has twice pulled out from an area title bout, but his actions have opened the door for both fighters - most profitably for Pearce earlier this month.

'Pierce Pearce' stepped in to challenge Derby's Luke Galleaur for the vacant crown at four days' notice and stopped him in five rounds at the Town Hall, Burton.

Eggington boxed his last bout at the Institute in Birmingham five days earlier, the 19-year-old scoring his first knockout when he put Vaclav Skromach over in round two.

Pearce and Eggington were involved as Prizefighter returned to Wolverhampton Civic Hall in January but went out at the first hurdle.

Home

Pearce alleged an illegal punch in a second-round loss to eventual winner Glenn Foot, as Eggington went the distance with finalist Dale Evans.

Now they face each other in a home show.

Promoter Errol Johnson says: "Pearce versus Eggington has all the ingredients of a Fight of the Year contender."

"They are both come-forward-fighters who enjoy a tear-up. They are both from Stourbridge, so there's local pride at stake, too."

"The fact that there's a title up for grabs, too, means it's going to be a great night of boxing." Four Dudley-based fighters are on the under-card and Cradley

by Craig Birch

featherweight Chris Male appears after second thoughts over retirement.

He hung up his gloves last month but is in training for a swift comeback.

Male lost an English title shot on points at the Venue in November and Dudley's Dean Anderson will also try to put similar disappointment behind him on the bill.

'Deano' retired after eight rounds with Gavin McDonnell for the British Masters super-bantamweight belt in December but goes back up to featherweight.

Dudley lightweight Rizwan Rasool joins him after two straight wins since turning pro last March.

Brierley Hill's Kyle Spencer will look to make a name for himself elsewhere on the show. 'The Style', a light-middleweight, scored a stunning first-round knockout last month.

Completing the card is West Bromwich's Adam Corbett, a light-heavyweight, and unbeaten super-middleweight Andrew Robinson.

Tickets are priced at £30 for unreserved seating and £60 at ringside, which includes a three-course meal. Call The Venue box office on 01384 453 101.



Steven Pearce lands an uppercut on Luke Galleaur in their Midlands title match

Tank back on the right track

DUDLEY boxer Ryan Aston got back on track with a dominant points win over Kirill Psonko at the Town Hall in Leeds.

The 22-year-old middleweight has endured a frustrating time since suffering his maiden professional defeat in a Midlands title shot with Curtis Valentine last July.

But 'Tank' was always in command against Lithuanian Psonko over four rounds and floored his opponent with a left-right combination early in the last.

However, Aston couldn't find the finishing blow after Psonko had taken an eight count from referee John Latham, eventually taking the contest 40-35 on points.

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